

MAR.
NO. 32
K 10¢



ALL-TRUE CRIME

COMICS

CASES

WE'LL SPLIT OUR TAKE THE USUAL WAY... 80% FOR ME, AND WITH THE REST I'LL TAKE CARE OF **YOU** FELLOWS! THAT'S THE WAY IT'S GONNA BE, SEE? AN' IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, YOU KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT IT!

HE SAYS HE'LL TAKE CARE OF US... WITH 20%! **HA!** TELL HIM, NAILS!

YEAH, WE KNOW WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO ABOUT IT! **WE'RE TAKIN' IT ALL...** THEN WE'LL TAKE CARE OF **YOU**, SEE?

SNAP IT UP, NAILS! WE'VE GOT A DATE!



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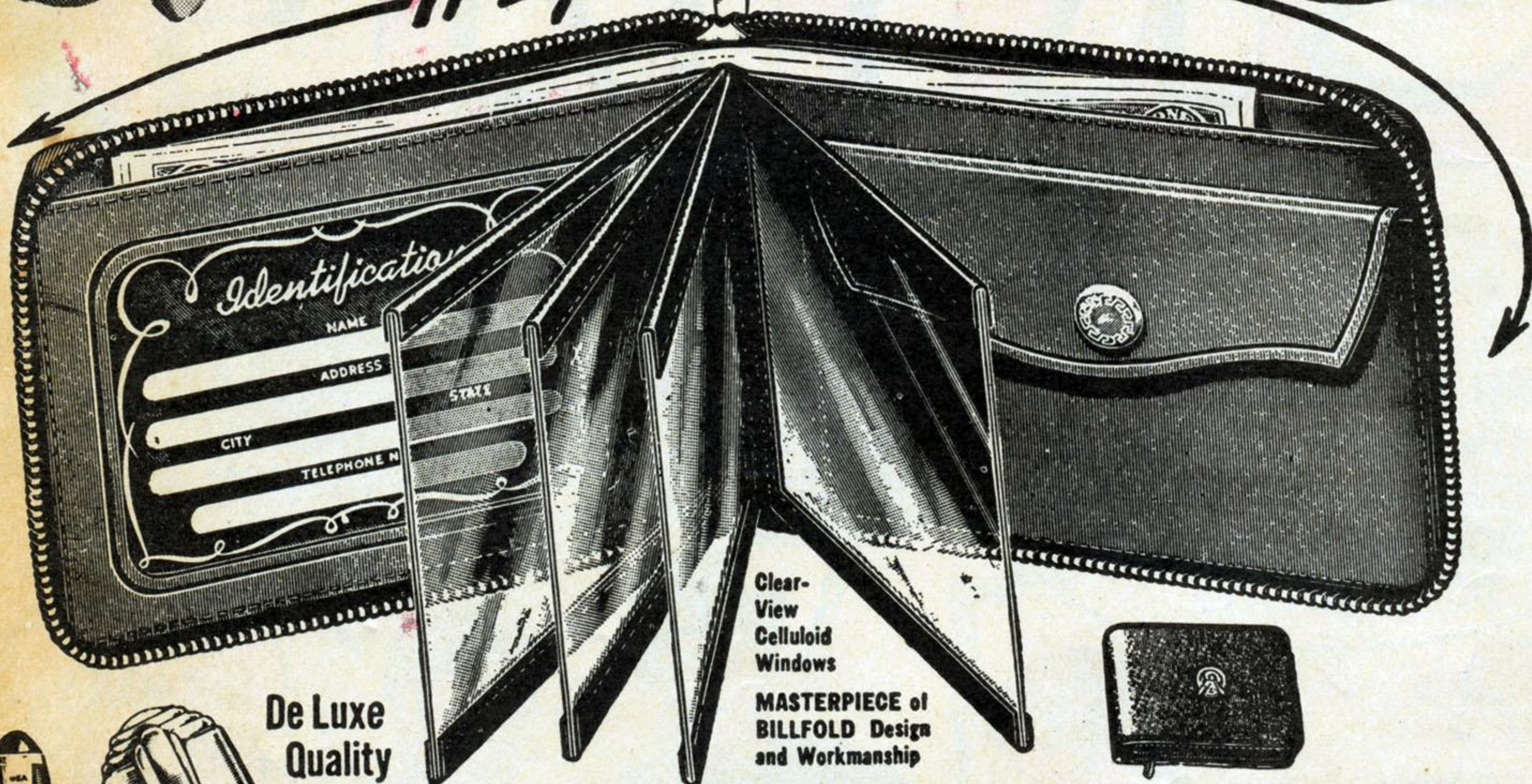
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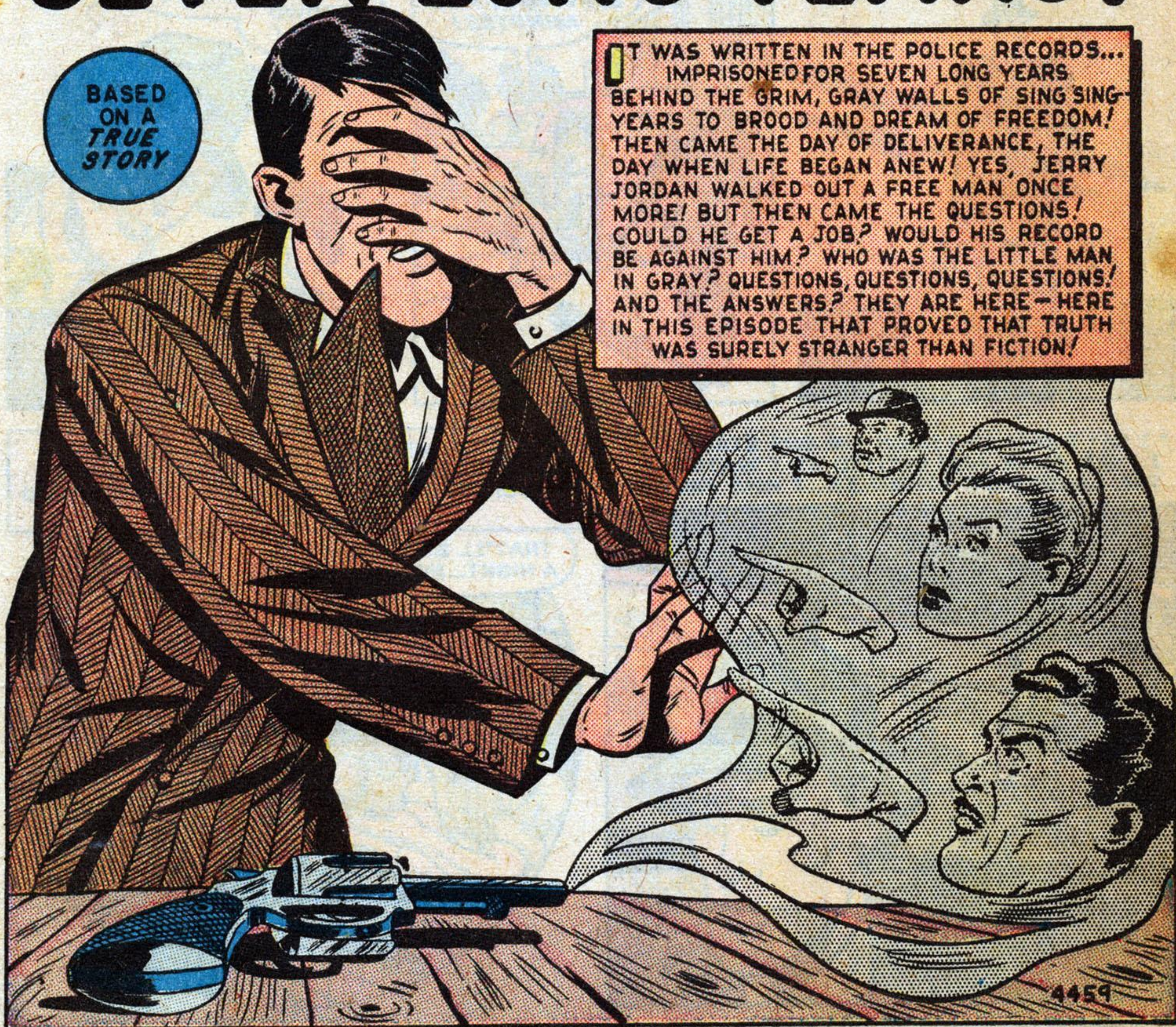
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"SEVEN LONG YEARS!"

BASED
ON A
TRUE
STORY

IT WAS WRITTEN IN THE POLICE RECORDS... IMPRISONED FOR SEVEN LONG YEARS BEHIND THE GRIM, GRAY WALLS OF SING SING YEARS TO BROOD AND DREAM OF FREEDOM! THEN CAME THE DAY OF DELIVERANCE, THE DAY WHEN LIFE BEGAN ANEW! YES, JERRY JORDAN WALKED OUT A FREE MAN ONCE MORE! BUT THEN CAME THE QUESTIONS! COULD HE GET A JOB? WOULD HIS RECORD BE AGAINST HIM? WHO WAS THE LITTLE MAN IN GRAY? QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS! AND THE ANSWERS? THEY ARE HERE—HERE IN THIS EPISODE THAT PROVED THAT TRUTH WAS SURELY STRANGER THAN FICTION!



SING SING PENITENTIARY, GRIM REMINDER OF MAN'S MISTAKES! ON MAY 22ND, 1941, THE IRON DOORS WERE CLOSED ON JERRY JORDAN! TODAY, JUNE 3RD, 1948, AFTER SEVEN LONG YEARS, HE IS BEING RELEASED, AND...

...BUT THIS IS JERRY JORDAN'S STORY, SO LET'S LET HIM TELL IT TO YOU IN HIS OWN WAY!

JERRY, I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU GO... YOU'RE NOT A REAL CRIMINAL! LOTS OF LUCK, FELLOW!

THANKS, WARDEN... THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, AND GOOD-BYE!

"YES, I, JERRY JORDAN, CRIMINAL, WAS SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS FOR MANSLAUGHTER IN 1941! NOW, AFTER SERVING SEVEN YEARS AND GETTING THREE YEARS OFF FOR GOOD BEHAVIOR..."

CRIME CAN'T WIN

"... I WALKED OUT, ONCE MORE A FREE MAN!"



"I HURRIED TO THE BUS TERMINAL! I WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM THOSE COLD GRAY WALLS...GET AWAY FAST!"



"I BOUGHT A TICKET AND CLIMBED ABOARD! THEN, FOR THE FIRST TIME, I NOTICED THE LITTLE MAN IN GRAY!"

SORRY, BROTHER! DIDN'T MEAN TO CROWD YOU!



"I SAT DOWN AND SOON THE BUS STARTED! I FELT ALIVE AND EXCITED AS I WATCHED THE LANDSCAPE SWEEP BY... I WAS FREE!"



"WHEN WE REACHED NEW YORK, I HEADED FOR THE EAST SIDE AND FOUND A GHEAP LODGING AT ONE OF THE NUMEROUS ROOMING HOUSES!"

THAT'LL BE A BUCK A NIGHT...IN ADVANCE!

OKAY!

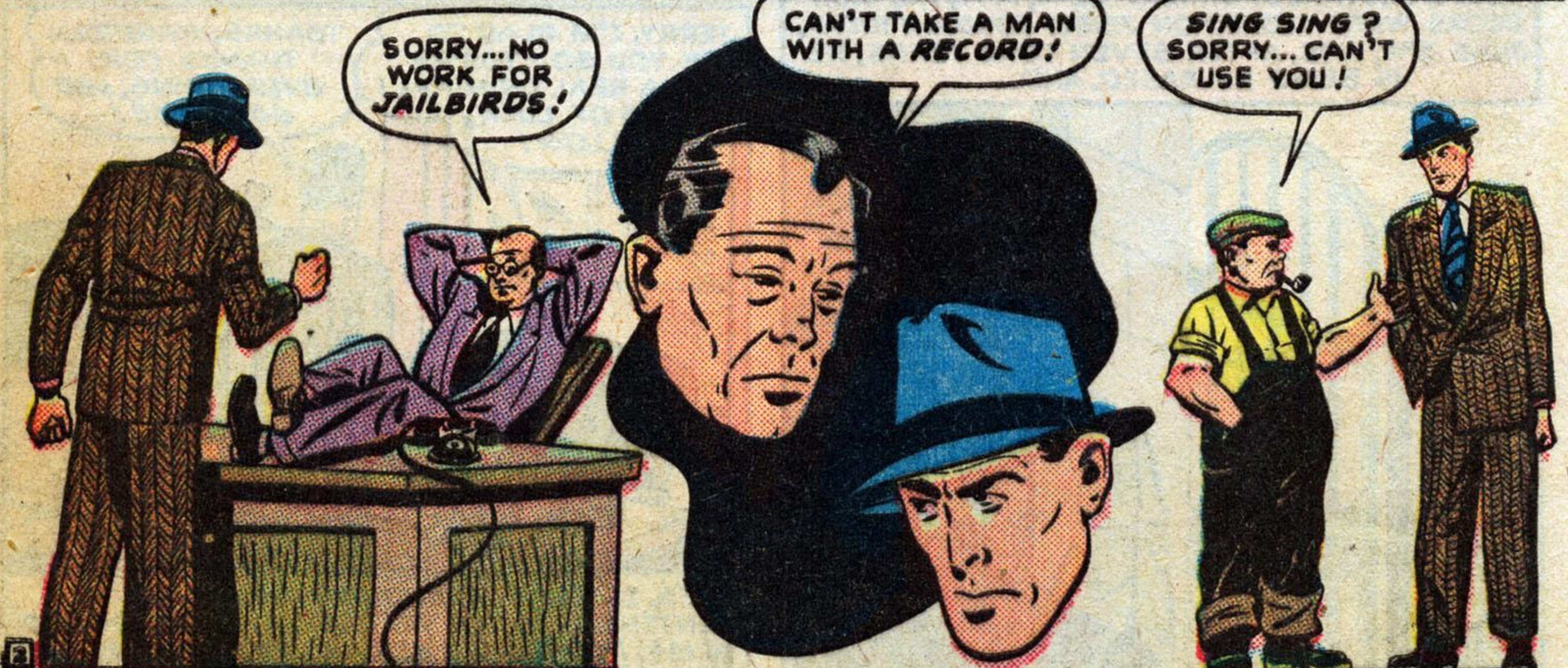


"I WON'T BORE YOU WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOWED! MY MONEY WAS RUNNING LOW, AND I WALKED FROM DAWN TILL DARK LOOKING FOR WORK, BUT EVERYWHERE I WENT, IT WAS THE SAME!"

SORRY...NO WORK FOR JAILBIRDS!

CAN'T TAKE A MAN WITH A RECORD!

SING SING? SORRY... CAN'T USE YOU!



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

"IT WAS FRIDAY, AUGUST 10TH, WHEN MY LITTLE BANKROLL FINALLY GAVE OUT! I MADE A LAST, DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO GET WORK!"

NO, I'M NOT A G.I. ! I SPENT THE WAR YEARS IN PRISON FOR MANSLAUGHTER!

OH! WELL, I'M SORRY, SON, BUT...WELL, Y'KNOW, I DON'T MAKE THE RULES HERE, AN...



"I WALKED OUT INTO THE RAIN... AND SAW THE LITTLE MAN IN GRAY, WHO I HAD SEEN ON THE BUS TWO MONTHS BEFORE! I WENT TOWARD HIM!"

HEY! YOU!



"HE TURNED AND RAN FAST FOR THE CORNER! I RAN AFTER HIM!"

"I SKIDDED AROUND THE CORNER! HE WAS GONE... DISAPPEARED...AS THOUGH SWALLOWED UP BY THE RAIN!"

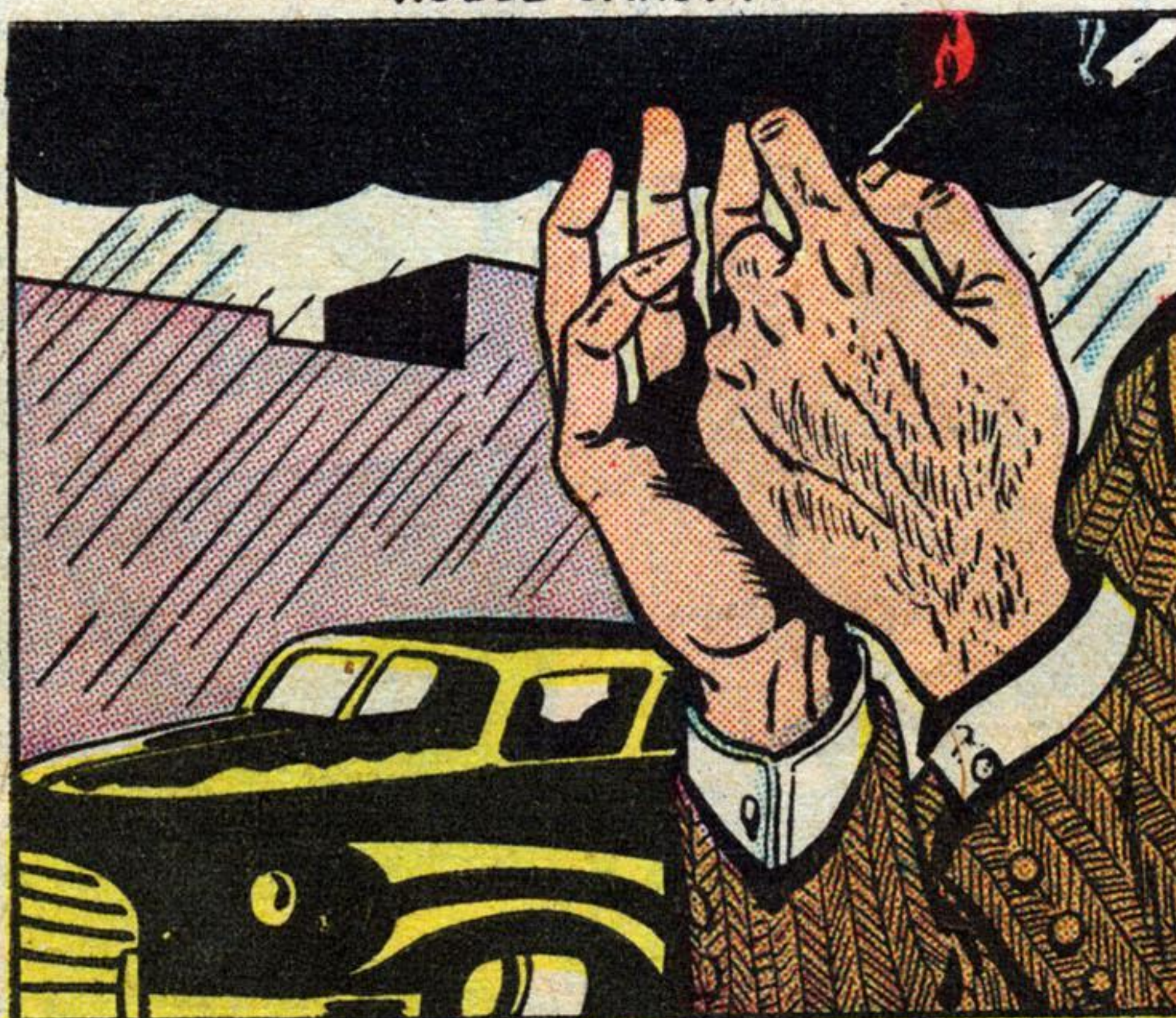
"I TRUDGED THROUGH THE DOWNPOUR, WET, BROKE, HUNGRY, MY MIND A TURMOIL OF CONFLICTING EMOTIONS...ANGER, DESPAIR, SELF-PITY, AND DESPERATION!"

WAIT! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!



"HOW LONG I WALKED, I'LL NEVER KNOW, BUT FINALLY I STOPPED TO LIGHT MY LAST CIGARETTE UNDER THE SHELTER OF A SWANKY APARTMENT HOUSE CANOPY!"

"THEN IT HAPPENED! A BIG, GLITTERING CAR DREW UP AND A PROSPEROUS-LOOKING MAN ALIGHTED! THE LIGHT STRUCK HIS FACE, THROWING IT INTO BOLD OUTLINE! I STOOD SPELLBOUND, AS I GAZED AT HIM! THIS WAS THE MAN I HAD KILLED SEVEN YEARS AGO!"



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN



"AS HE DISAPPEARED INTO THE APARTMENT HOUSE, I GOT CONTROL OF MYSELF AND SAUNTERED OVER TO THE CAR!"



YOUR BOSS MUST BE IN THE BUCKS TO OWN A WAGON LIKE THIS! WHO IS HE?

GARY STEVENS... BIG SHOT BROKER!



GARY STEVENS! SAY, DOESN'T HE LIVE ON LONG ISLAND?

NAW, HE OWNS AN EXCLUSIVE DUMP AT THE BEGINNING OF FOREST PARKWAY! HEY, WHAT'S IT TO YOU-?

"THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KNOW! I HEADED INTO THE RAIN TOWARD FOREST PARKWAY! AND AS I SLOSHED ALONG, MY MIND TRAVELED BACK TO BOSTON, MASS... BACK TO THAT FATAL NIGHT SEVEN LONG YEARS AGO!"



"I WAS TWENTY-TWO, HAD A GOOD JOB IN BOSTON, AND WAS IN LOVE!"

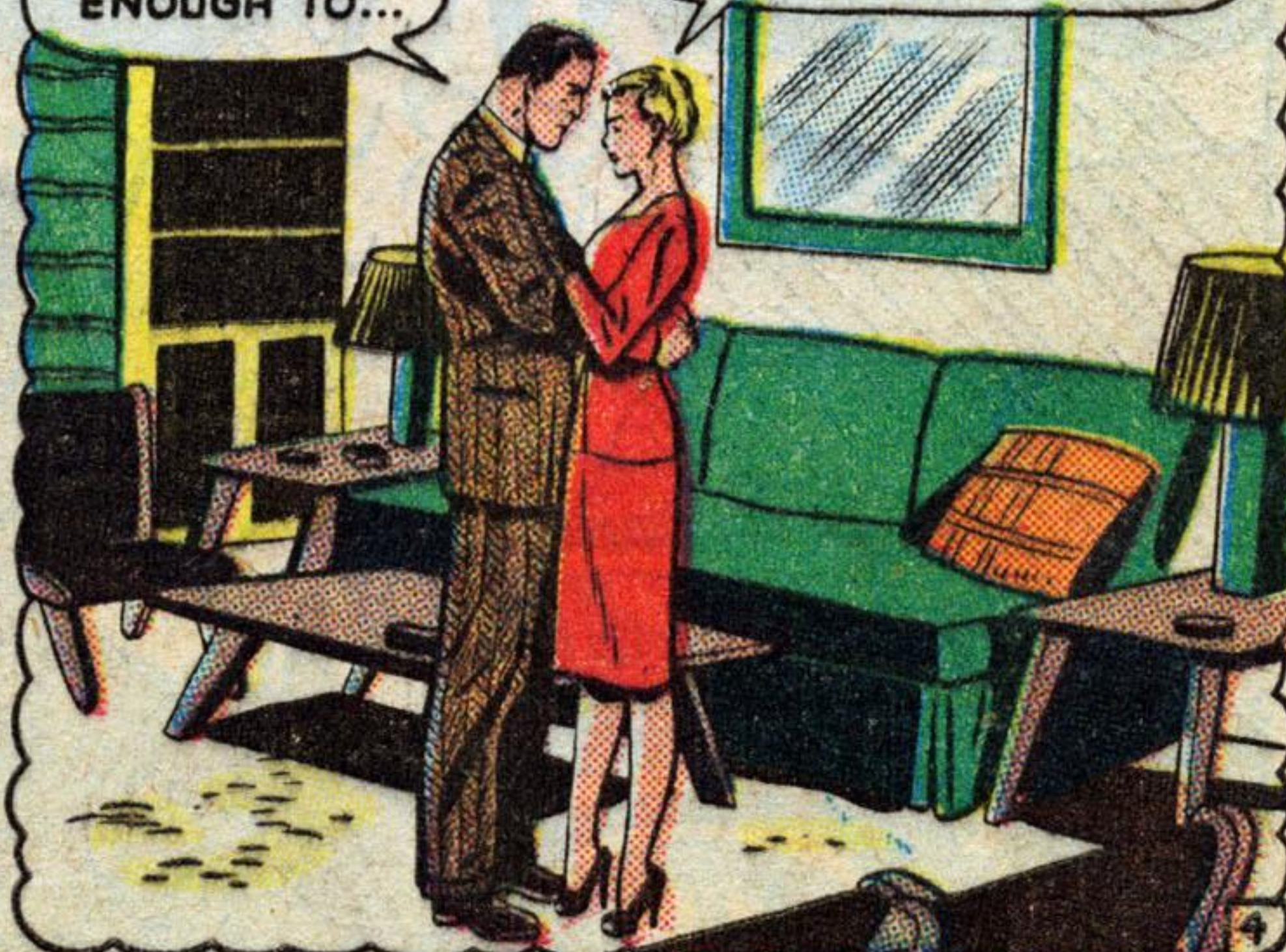
ELEANOR, HONEY, SAY THE WORD AND SET THE DATE! WILL YOU?

NOW, JERRY, WE'VE BEEN OVER THIS BEFORE! YOU KNOW YOU DON'T EARN ENOUGH TO GIVE ME THE THINGS I WANT!

"I TOOK HER IN MY ARMS! TO ME SHE WAS THE MOST DESIRABLE CREATURE IN THE WORLD, THOUGH I'D ONLY KNOWN HER A WEEK!"

AW, NOW, HONEY... DON'T SAY THAT! I'M MAKING ENOUGH TO...

TO WHAT? KEEP ONE JUMP AHEAD OF THE BILL COLLECTORS?



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

"SUDDENLY, AS WE STOOD TOGETHER, A WILD-EYED STRANGER RUSHED VIOLENTLY THROUGH THE HALF-OPEN DOOR!"

YOU LITTLE TWO-TIMER! WHO'S THIS GUY?

GEORGE, WAIT! LET ME EXPLAIN!

HEY! WHAT'S THIS?

"WHAT THIS?" HE SAYS! I'LL TELL YOU "WHAT'S THIS"! IT HAPPENS SHE'S MY GIRL, SEE? I LEAVE FOR A WEEK, AND THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS!

HEY, NOW, WAIT A MINUTE! I DIDN'T KNOW...

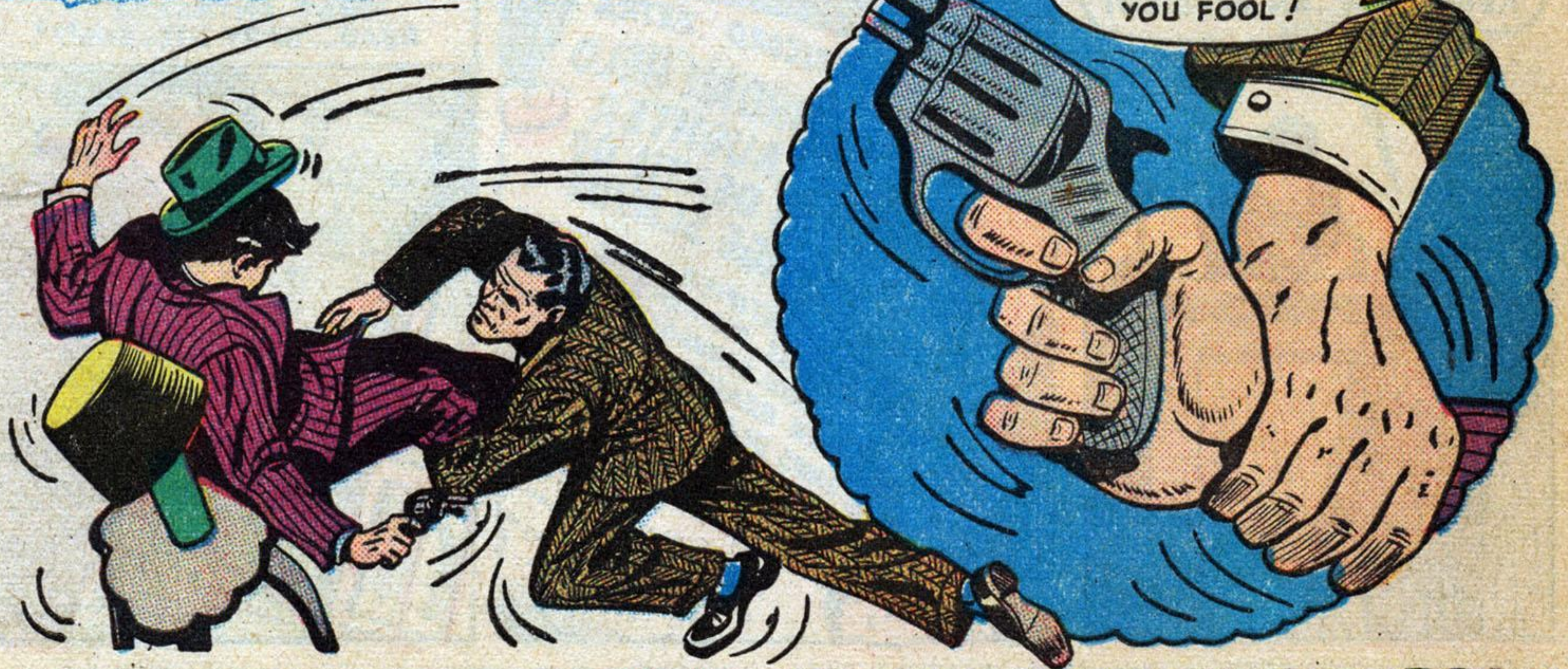
YOU'LL NEVER FOOL AROUND ANOTHER GUY'S GIRL! I'M GONNA SEE TO THAT... RIGHT NOW!



"THERE WAS ONLY ONE CHANCE, AND I TOOK IT! I LAUNCHED MYSELF IN A LOW, FLYING TACKLE AT HIS LEGS!"

"AS WE HIT THE FLOOR, I ARCHED UP AND GRABBED HIS WILDLY WAVING GUN HAND!"

DROP THAT GUN, YOU FOOL!



"WE ROLLED ON THE CARPET, STRAINING LIKE MADMEN, WITH THE GUN SMOTHERED BETWEEN OUR TWO BODIES! SUDDENLY THERE WAS A MUFFLED EXPLOSION!"

"GEORGE TWISTED VIOLENTLY AND ROLLED FACE OVER ON THE FLOOR! I ROSE SLOWLY FROM HIS PROSTRATE BODY! HE DIDN'T MOVE!"

HE'S DEAD! JERRY, YOU... YOU KILLED HIM!



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

BUT ELEANOR,
IT WAS AN
ACCIDENT!
I...

HE'S DEAD! JERRY,
YOU'VE GOT TO GET AWAY!
HERE, TAKE THIS MONEY...
GET OUT OF TOWN... HIDE!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS!

"I WASN'T THINKING CLEARLY, AS SHE PUSHED
ME OUT THE DOOR! I WENT TO THE RAILROAD
STATION AND TOOK THE FIRST TRAIN TO NEW
YORK!"



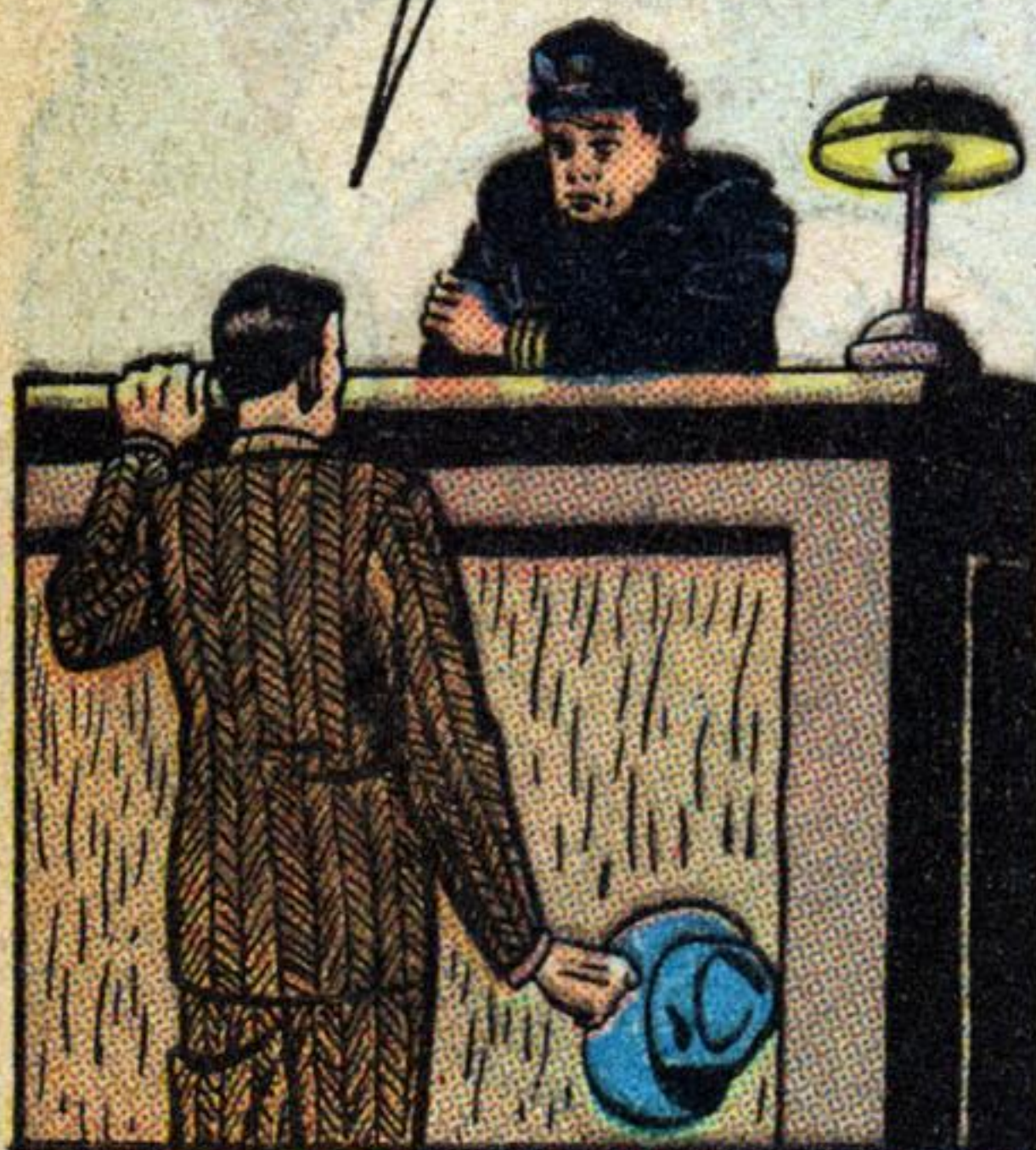
"A FEW HOURS LATER, IN NEW
YORK, I GAVE MYSELF UP!"

"DURING THE TRIAL, I READ THE
STORY IN THE NEWSPAPERS!"

"I CAME BACK FROM THE DEAD
PAST WITH A START! I HAD
REACHED FOREST PARKWAY,
AND THE NAME PLATE ON THE
FIRST ENTRANCE
READ... 'GARY STEVENS'!"

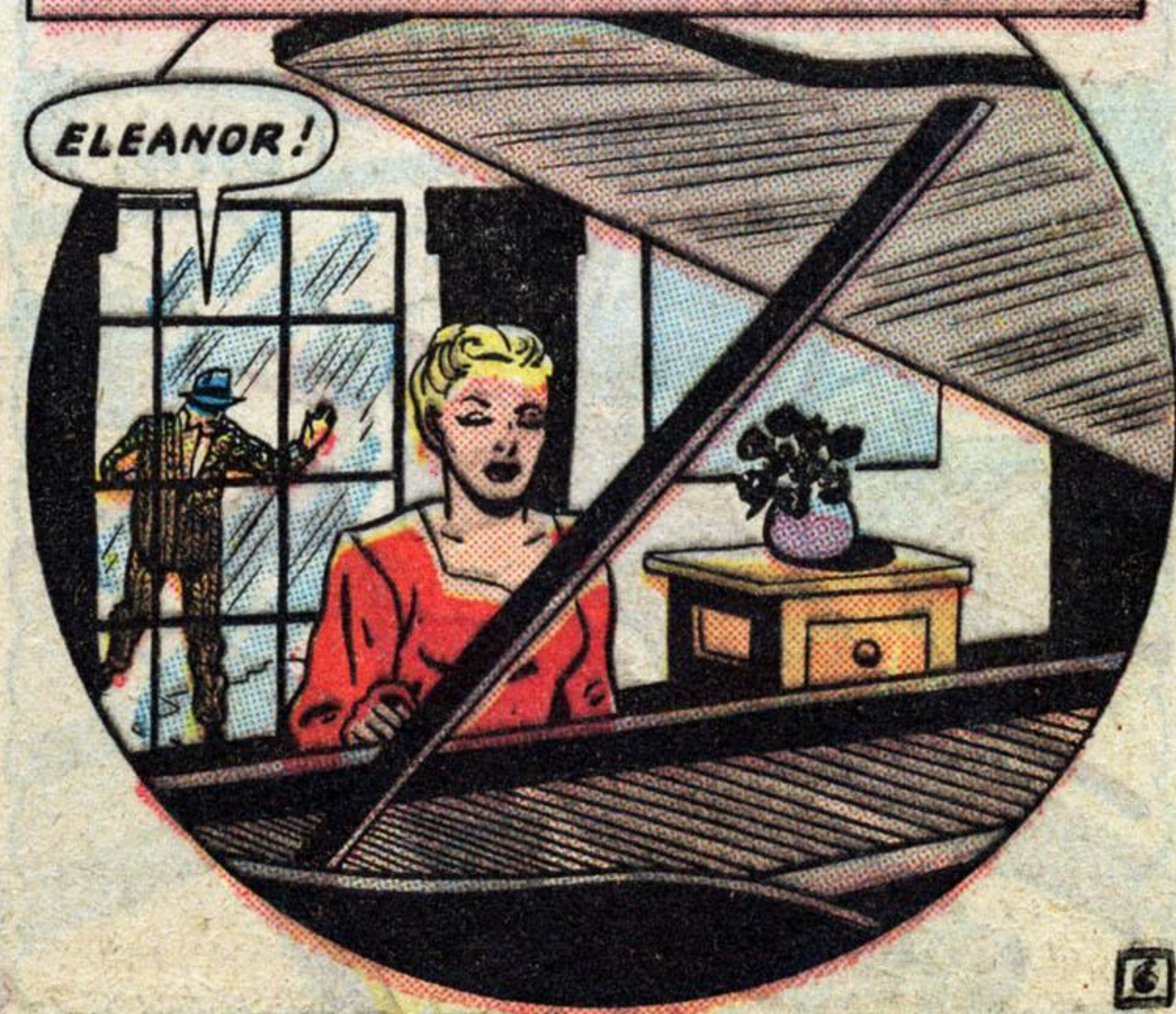
OFFICER, I WANT TO
REPORT AN...AN ACCIDENT
IN BOSTON...

EXTRA DAILY RECORD EXTRA
JERRY JORDAN HELD
ON MANSLAUGHTER
CHARGE IN DEATH OF
GEORGE SLAVIN
BODY IDENTIFIED
BY FIANCEE, ELEANOR
SIMPSON. STRUGGLE
OVER BEAUTY
ENDS IN TRAGEDY



"I CLIMBED OVER THE WET, SLIPPERY WALL
AND TURNED TOWARD THE HUGE HOUSE SET
WELL BACK FROM THE STREET!"

"I APPROACHED THE HOUSE STEALTHILY,
WALKED ONTO A BROAD TERRACE, AND
PEERING THROUGH THE FRENCH DOORS, SAW..."



ELEANOR!

FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

"I WASN'T THINKING CLEARLY! I WAS SOAKED THROUGH, AND MY TEETH WERE CHATTERING! I OPENED THE GLASS DOOR AND WALKED IN!"



I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME THING! TALK, ELEANOR... TALK FAST, OR I'LL KILL YOU! I DIDN'T KILL HIM! YOU KNOW I DIDN'T!



TALK, ELEANOR!

DON'T HURT ME, JERRY! I'LL TALK! GEORGE AND I PLANNED IT! HE WAS HEAVILY INSURED AND I WAS THE BENEFICIARY! WE...WE JUST HAPPENED TO PICK YOU AS THE FALL GUY!

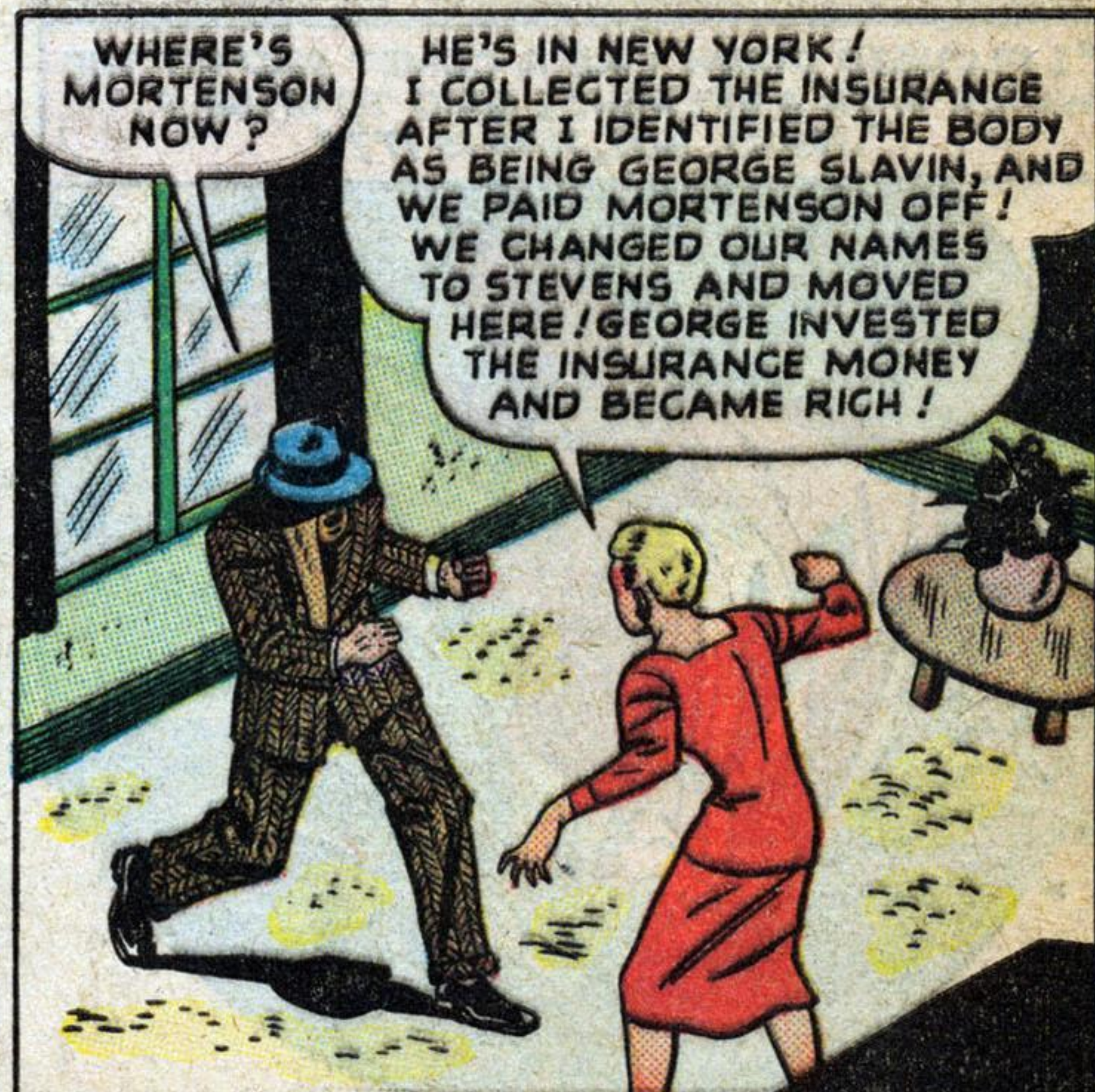


GEORGE MADE A DEAL WITH A MAN NAMED JESSE MORTENSON, WHO WAS A MORGUE ATTENDANT! A BODY CAME INTO THE MORGUE WITH A CHEST WOUND ON THAT NIGHT WE FRAMED IT...AS SOON AS I GOT RID OF YOU, MORTENSON BROUGHT THE BODY UP DRESSED IN GEORGE'S CLOTHES! THEN I CALLED THE POLICE!

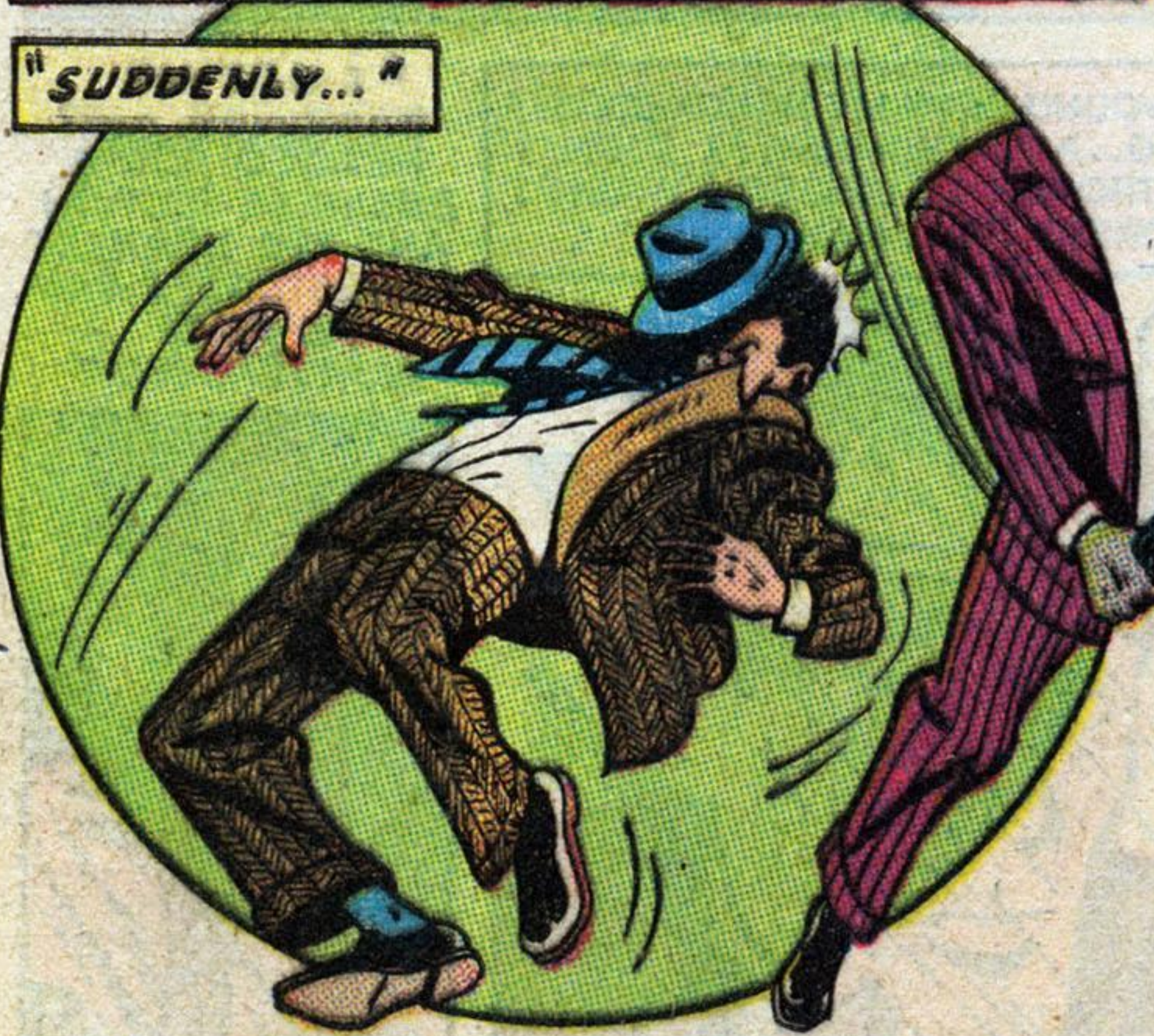


WHERE'S MORTENSON NOW?

HE'S IN NEW YORK! I COLLECTED THE INSURANCE AFTER I IDENTIFIED THE BODY AS BEING GEORGE SLAVIN, AND WE PAID MORTENSON OFF! WE CHANGED OUR NAMES TO STEVENS AND MOVED HERE! GEORGE INVESTED THE INSURANCE MONEY AND BECAME RICH!



"SUDDENLY..."



"I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I WAS OUT, BUT I WOKE UP ON SOAKING EARTH!"

OH! MY HEAD!

SO, YOU'RE AWAKE! OKAY, GET UP ON YOUR FEET! IT WILL MAKE IT EASIER!



"I FELT A BLINDING PAIN! THEN I SEEMED TO PLUNGE DOWN...DOWN INTO NOISOME DARKNESS!"

FROM OFFICIAL

POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

"HE HAULED ME TO MY FEET AND PUSHED ME TO THE EDGE OF THE BLUFF OVERLOOKING THE WATER!"

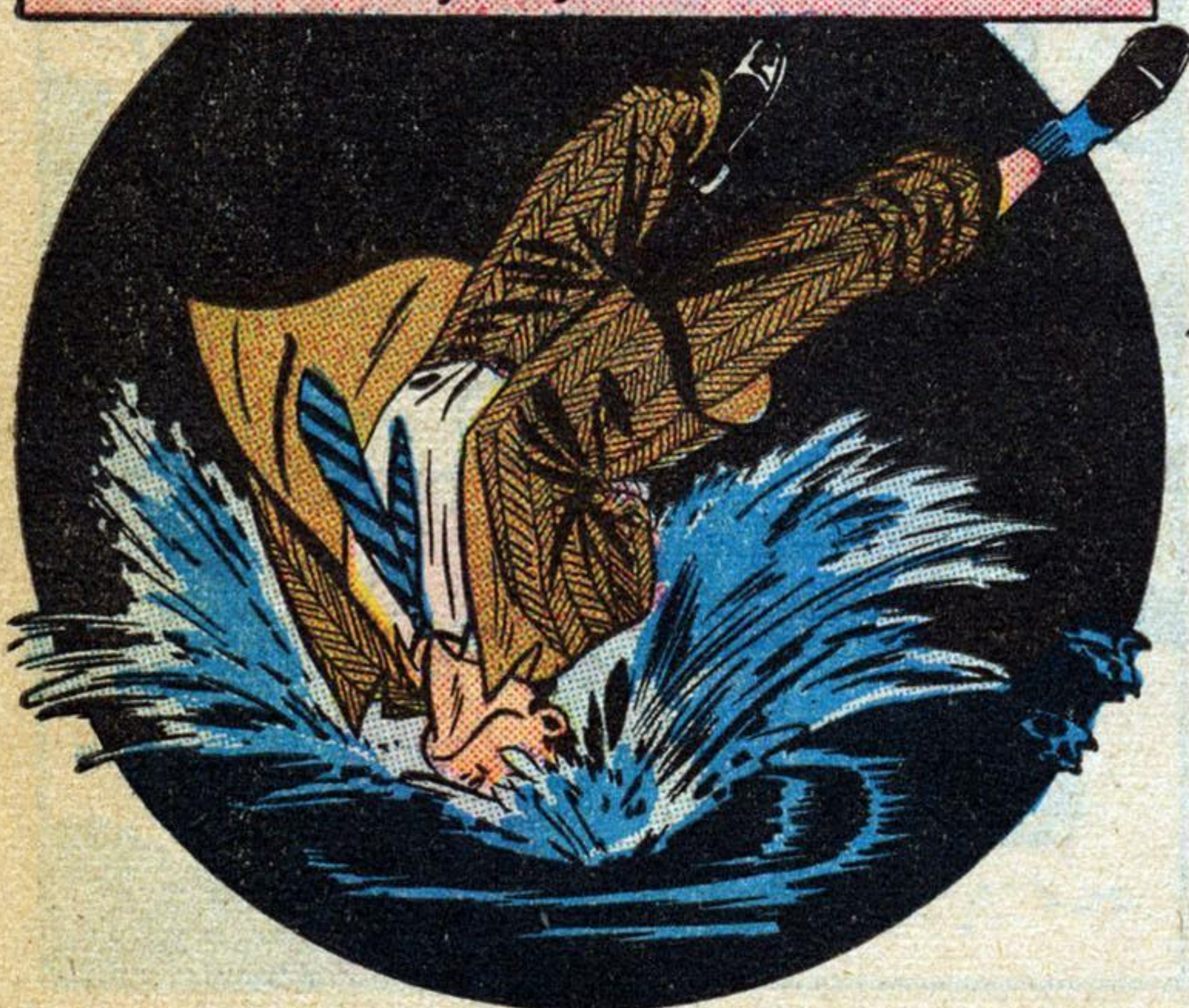
SO YOU HAD TO COME BACK! WELL, THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE, FOOL! I'M GOING TO SHOOT YOU AND GET YOU OUT OF THE WAY FOR GOOD! GOOD-BYE, CHUMP!



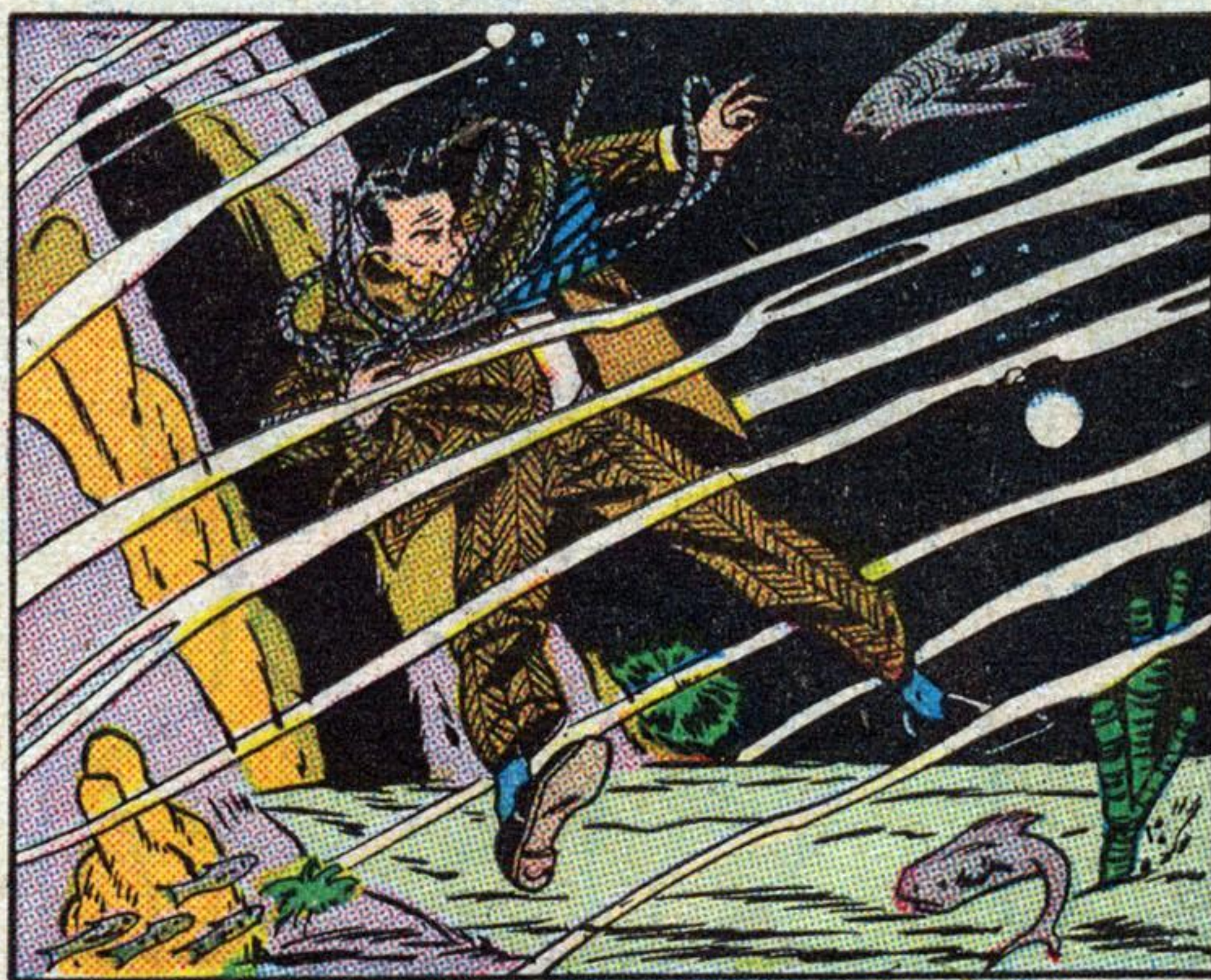
"AS THE SHOT CAME, I TWISTED MY BODY, FELT A NUMBING BLOW AT MY ARM... THEN TOPPLED OVER THE BLUFF!"



"I PLUNGED DOWN LIKE A COMET AND HIT THE WATER WITH A SPLASH! I SAID TO MYSELF, 'JERRY, BOY, THIS IS IT!'"



"THE CHILL WATER CLOSED OVER ME! THEN SUDDENLY, I FELT MY ARM RIDE FREE! THE SHOT MEANT TO SNUFF OUT MY LIFE HAD INSTEAD HIT MY ARM AND CUT THE ROPE BINDING ME!"



"A MOMENT LATER, I CRAWLED UP ON THE BANK! I HEARD A CAR MOTOR HUM AWAY INTO THE DISTANCE!"



GOT TO FIX THIS ARM... IT'S BLEEDING!

"I TIED UP THE ARM WOUND WITH MY HANDKERCHIEF, AND STARTED WALKING... AND THINKING! I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE I WAS, THOUGH I GUESSED I WASN'T FAR FROM FOREST PARKWAY!"

IF I CAN ONLY LOCATE THE MORGUE ATTENDANT! THAT'S IT... FIND HIM AND MAKE HIM TELL THE TRUTH! LET'S SEE... SHE SAID HIS NAME WAS MORGAN! NO... MORTENSON! JESSE MORTENSON!



"I GOT MY BEARINGS, AND HEADED FOR A BUSINESS SECTION AND THE NEAREST DRUGSTORE! I HAD TO FIND MORTENSON!"



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

"INSIDE THE DRUGSTORE, I GRABBED A PHONE BOOK AND TURNED TO THE M'S!"

MORTEN, MORTELL, MORTELLO, MORT... AH, MORTENSON! JESSE MORTENSON... 1710 VIRGINIA AVENUE!



"VIRGINIA AVENUE WAS JUST A FEW BLOCKS AWAY! I STARTED OUT, AND THEN, I SAW HIM AGAIN... THE LITTLE MAN IN GRAY... THERE, ACROSS THE STREET!"



"I DUCKED BACK INSIDE, FAST!"

IS THERE A BACK ENTRANCE TO THIS PLACE?

WHY, YES! THAT DOOR! BUT WHY...?



"I GOT OUT THE BACK DOOR LEADING TO A SIDE STREET... THEN RAN LIKE A HARE TO THE NEXT CORNER!"

"FIVE MINUTES LATER, I MOUNTED THE STEPS OF 1710 VIRGINIA AVENUE AND KNOCKED AT THE DOOR!"

HE'S NOT IN SIGHT! I'VE LOST HIM!

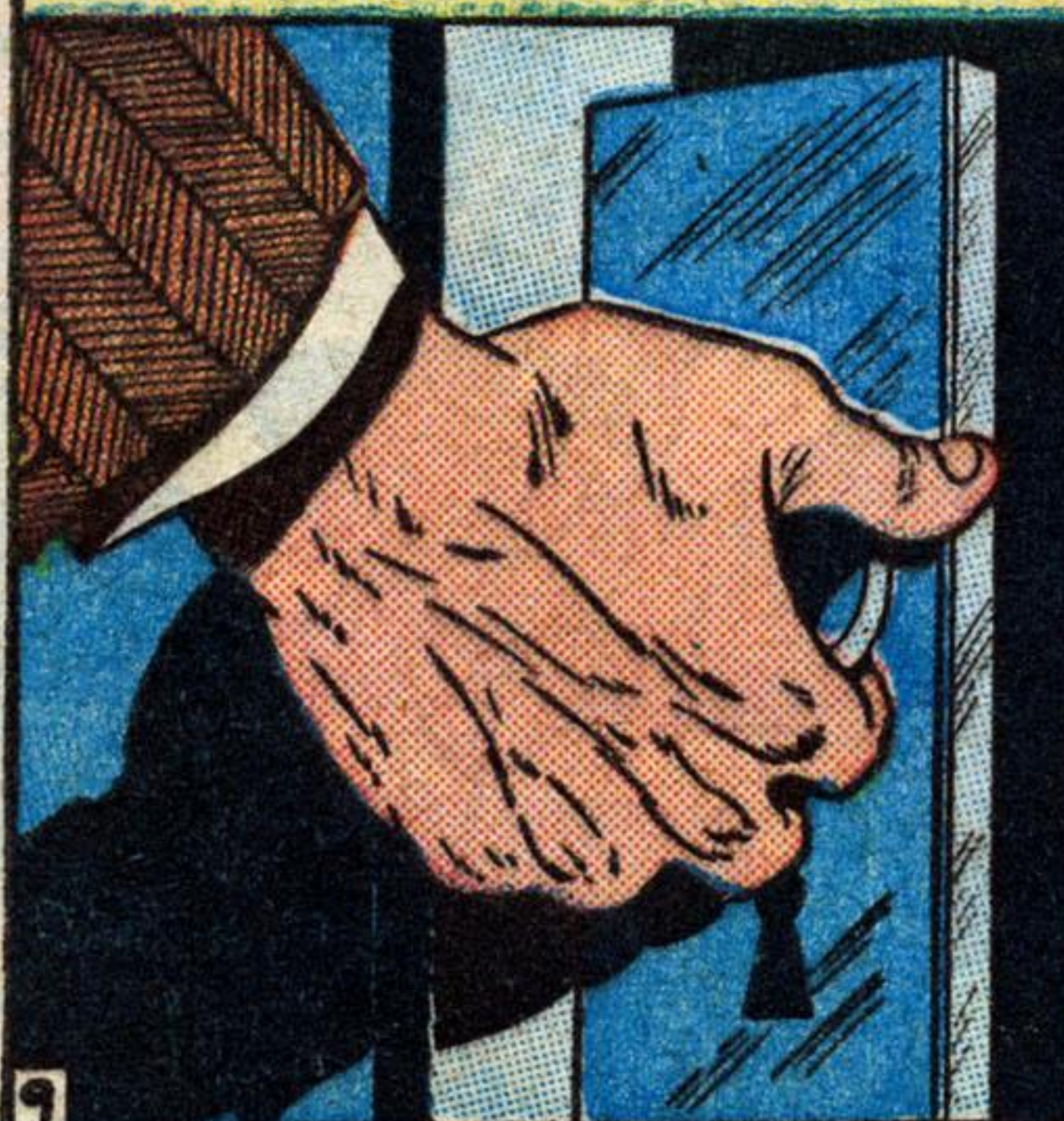


C'MON, OPEN UP IN THERE!



"I TRIED THE DOOR KNOB! THE DOOR SWUNG OPEN! THE HAIR ON THE BACK OF MY NECK STIFFENED! THE SCENT OF DANGER WAS LIKE A HEAVY PERFUME THAT CLOGGED MY NOSTRILS AS I WALKED IN!"

"THEN I SAW HIM... A STRANGER, LYING ON THE FLOOR... DEAD! I KNEW IT WAS MORTENSON! IT HAD TO BE!"



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

"I STOOD FROZEN, MY BRAIN DULLED FOR A MOMENT! THEN A SOUND BEHIND ME SWUNG MY HEAD TOWARD THE DOOR!"

DAD! WHAT'S HAPPENED?
IS HE...? HE'S DEAD! YOU...
YOU DID IT!

NO, NO, I FOUND HIM...
JUST NOW... DEAD... LIKE
THIS! HE'S BEEN SHOT!



WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE? I'M
GOING TO CALL
THE POLICE!

NO, WAIT! LISTEN...
MY NAME'S
JERRY JORDAN!
I...



"I TOLD HER THE WHOLE STORY! WHY? I DON'T
KNOW! PERHAPS IT WAS HER EYES, OR HER LOVELY
COMPASSIONATE MOUTH! ALL I KNOW IS, THE WORDS
TUMBLING OUT LIKE A PENT UP TORRENT!"

...AND THAT'S
IT! THAT'S
ALL OF IT!

JERRY, I BELIEVE YOU! ABOUT
SEVEN YEARS AGO DAD CAME
INTO A LOT OF MONEY!
I LEARNED IT WAS GIVEN TO
HIM BY A MAN NAMED STEVENS!
EVER SINCE HE GOT THE MONEY, HE'S
BEEN FRIGHTENED, AND SEVERAL
TIMES IN HIS SLEEP HE'S CALLED
OUT YOUR NAME... JERRY JORDAN!



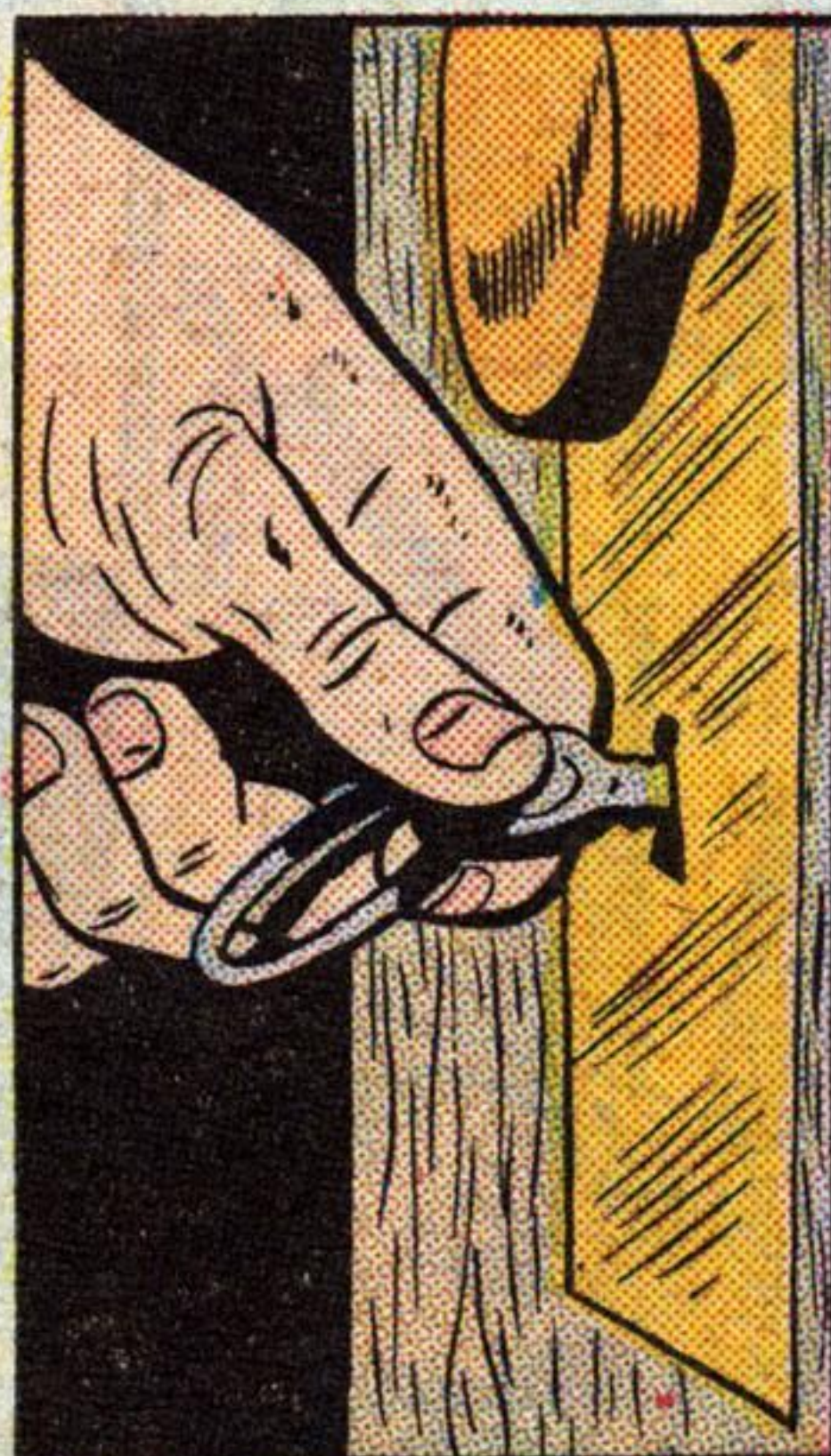
MY NAME'S NANCY! NOW LISTEN, JERRY... MY
APARTMENT IS AT 320 BOULEVARD... THREE
BLOCKS DOWN! HERE ARE THE KEYS! GO
THERE AND WAIT FOR ME! WE MUST GET
PROOF OF YOUR STORY OR A
CONFESSION FROM STEVENS!
RIGHT NOW I MUST CALL THE
POLICE!

THANKS,
NANCY!
I'LL WAIT
FOR YOU!



"OUT IN THE STREET
AGAIN, I HURRIED
TOWARD THE
BOULEVARD! ONCE
I THOUGHT I WAS
BEING FOLLOWED!
I TURNED, EXPECTING
TO SEE THE MAN IN
GRAY, BUT THE STREET
WAS EMPTY!"

"A FEW MINUTES LATER,
I TURNED THE KEY TO
NANCY'S APARTMENT
DOOR AND WALKED IN!"



"I FOUND THE MEDICINE CABINET, DOCTORED MY ARM
...THEN ENTERED THE KITCHENETTE AND MADE MYSELF
A SANDWICH AND A DRINK!"

AHH! I SURE
NEEDED
THIS!



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

"MY EYES SWUNG AROUND THE ROOM AND STOPPED... STOPPED AT A PHOTOGRAPH OF GEORGE SLAVIN, ALIAS GARY STEVENS... INSCRIBED, 'TO NANCY... ALL MY LOVE, GARY'!"

SHE... SHE TRICKED ME! I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

"MY FIRST INSTINCT WAS FLIGHT! SHE, NANCY MORTENSON, WAS IN IT, TOO! I TURNED TO THE DOOR! IT WAS OPEN, AND THERE HE STOOD... GEORGE... GARY STEVENS!"

YOU! I THOUGHT I HAD... NANCY, YOU CALLED ME AND ASKED ME TO TAKE YOU HOME! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

THIS, GARY... MY FATHER'S GUN! YOU FRAMED THIS MAN AND KILLED MY FATHER, AND BEFORE WE'RE THROUGH WITH YOU, WE'RE GOING TO MAKE YOU CONFESS!

WHY, DARLING... WHAT'S COME OVER YOU? PUT THAT GUN DOWN!

"SUDDENLY, LIKE A STRIKING SNAKE, STEVENS GRABBED THE GUN FROM NANCY'S HAND!"

GIVE ME THAT!

NO... DON'T!

WHY, YOU...

GET OVER THERE, YOU LITTLE FOOL! DON'T EITHER OF YOU MOVE! I'VE GOT YOU COLD!

SO YOU WANTED ME TO TALK, HUH? ALL RIGHT, I'LL TALK! SURE I KILLED YOUR FATHER! HE WAS GETTING COLD FEET ABOUT THE DEAL WE MADE SEVEN YEARS AGO, AND I WAS AFRAID HE'D SPILL SOMETHING! WHEN JORDAN SHOWED UP, I FIGURED I'D TAKE CARE OF BOTH OF THEM!

BUT YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO MARRY ME!

THAT WAS A GAG, TO STAY CLOSE TO YOUR OLD MAN! I DIDN'T TRUST HIM! BESIDES, I'M MARRIED ALREADY... TO ELEANOR! BUT I'VE TALKED ENOUGH! NOW I'M GOING TO KILL YOU BOTH AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE YOU, JERRY, KILLED MORTENSON AND HIS DAUGHTER... AND THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE!

FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

THE POLICE WILL FIGURE THE OLD MAN WOULDN'T LET YOU GO AROUND WITH HIS DAUGHTER BECAUSE YOU'RE A JAILBIRD AND... WHY, YOU...

"THEN, JUST AS I HAD SEVEN YEARS AGO, I DIVED FOR HIS LEGS IN A LOW FLYING TACKLE! IT WAS MY ONLY CHANCE!"

LOOK OUT, JERRY!

"I TOOK A CHANCE! I THREW THE HIGHBALL, GLASS AND ALL, IN HIS FACE!"

"I WAS SLOW, WOUNDED, AND WEAKER THAN I'D REALIZED! HE SIDE-STEPPED, CRASHED TO THE FLOOR, AND THEN A SHOT SMASHED OUT ABOVE ME! I THOUGHT ... 'THIS IS IT!' "

"SUDDENLY, A BODY CRASHED DOWN BESIDE ME! I TURNED MY HEAD AND LOOKED INTO THE DEAD FACE OF GARY STEVENS!"

"I ROSE SLOWLY TO MY FEET, AND THERE HE WAS AGAIN, STANDING IN THE DOORWAY, HOLDING A SMOKING GUN... THE MAN IN GRAY!"

LUCKY I PICKED UP YOUR TRAIL AGAIN, SON! GOT HERE JUST IN TIME! NAME'S HERMAN STOCKHOPPER! SILLY NAME, BUT CAN'T HELP IT! I'M AN INSURANCE DETECTIVE!

BANG!

ALWAYS THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHIN' FUNNY 'BOUT THE SLAVIN CASE! WE PAID THE INSURANCE... THEN ELEANOR SIMPSON DISAPPEARED! WAITED SEVEN YEARS... FIGURED MAYBE YOU WERE IN ON THE CAPER, TOO! FOLLOWED YOU FROM THE TIME YOU LEFT JAIL! WELL, PROVED I WAS RIGHT ANYWAY... AFTER SEVEN LONG YEARS!

YEAH, SEVEN LONG YEARS!

MAYBE, JERRY... WELL, I CAN TRY TO... TO HELP YOU FORGET THOSE YEARS!

"WELL, THAT'S THE STORY... THAT PART OF IT, I MEAN! WHAT HAPPENED AFTER? THAT'S ANOTHER, AND PLEASANTER, STORY!"

THE END

FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

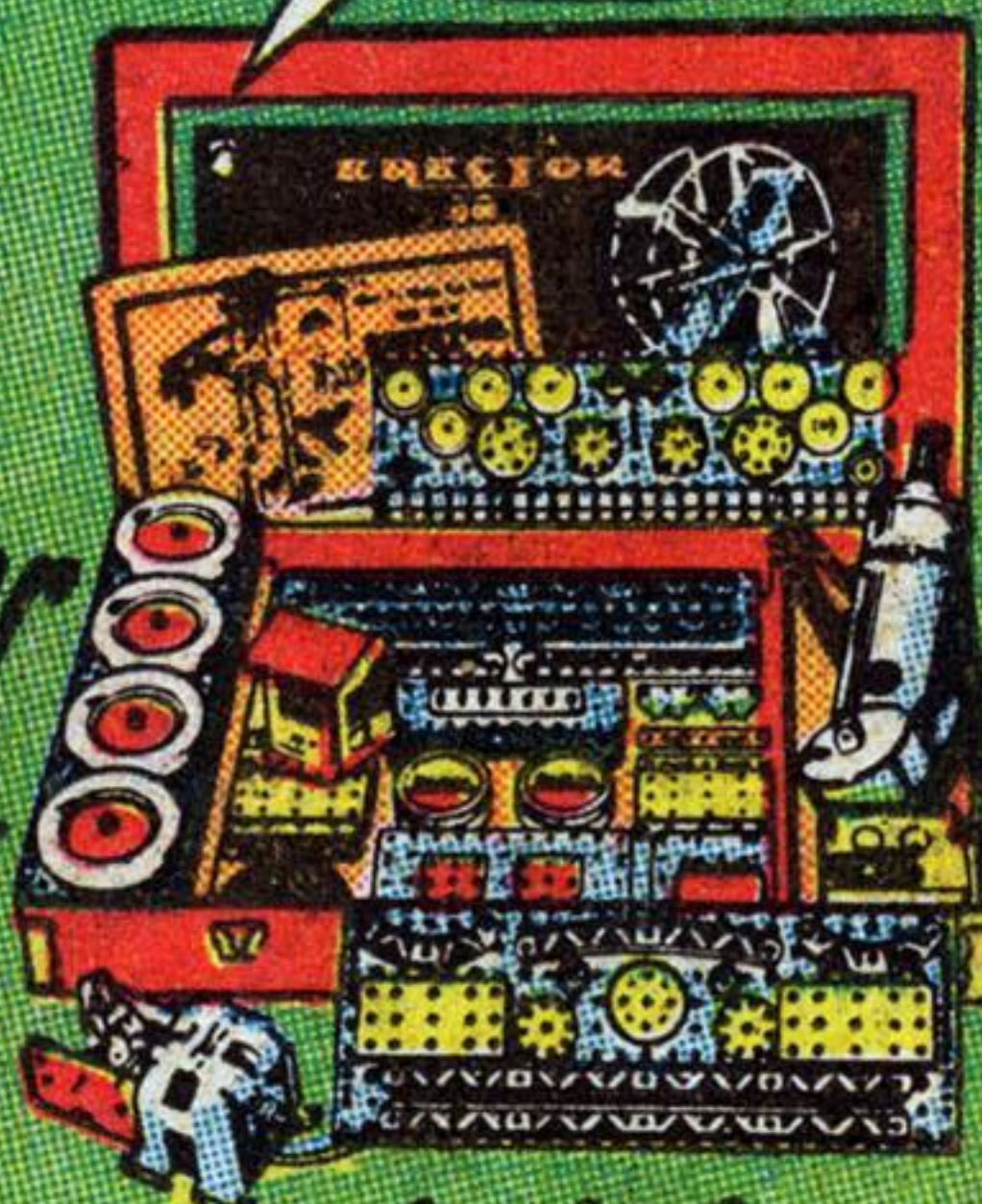
BOYS!

Look at all
the
Spectacular
Buzz-With-
Action
Models you can build
with

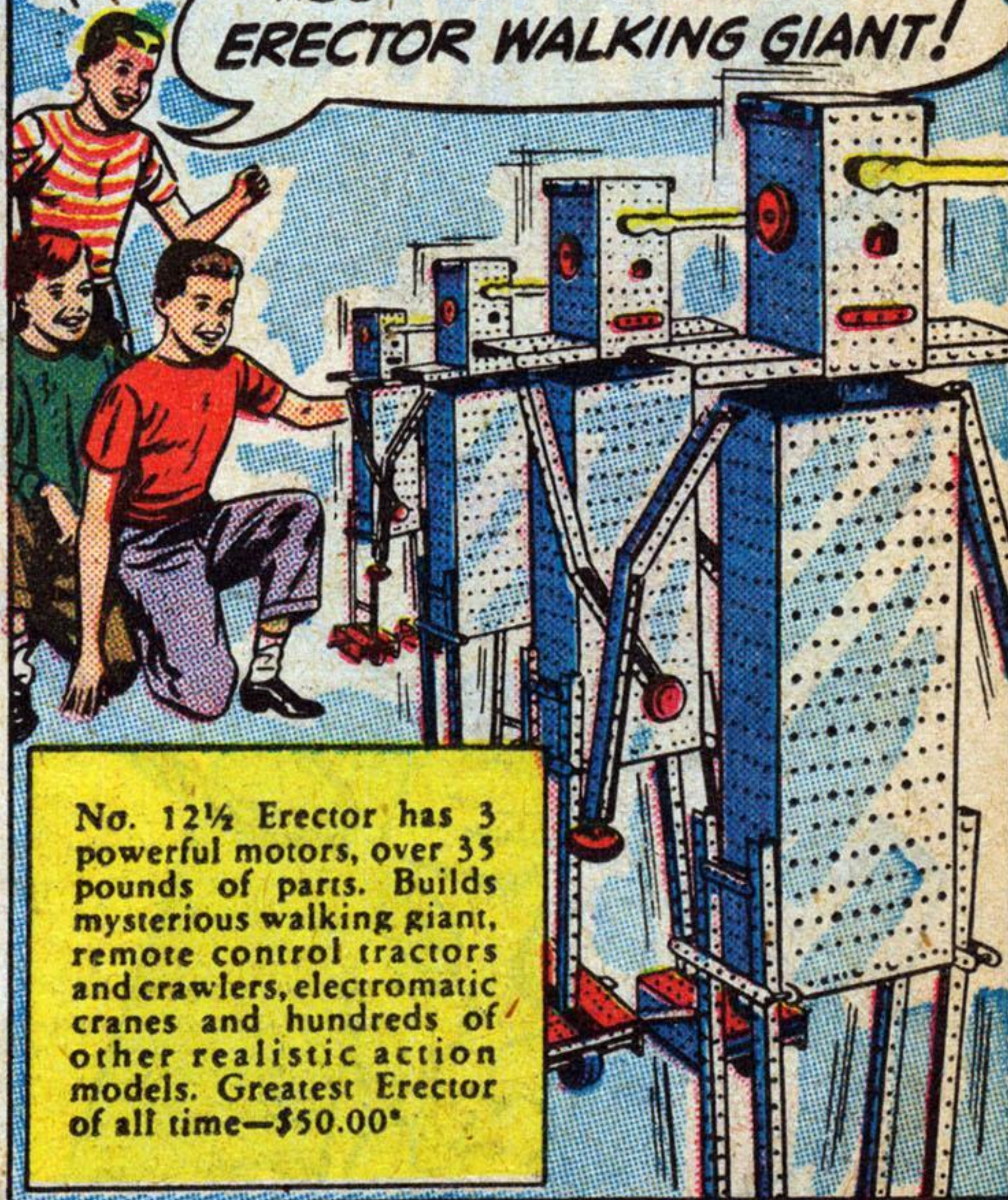
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STEEL—TO
BUILD LIKE REAL!

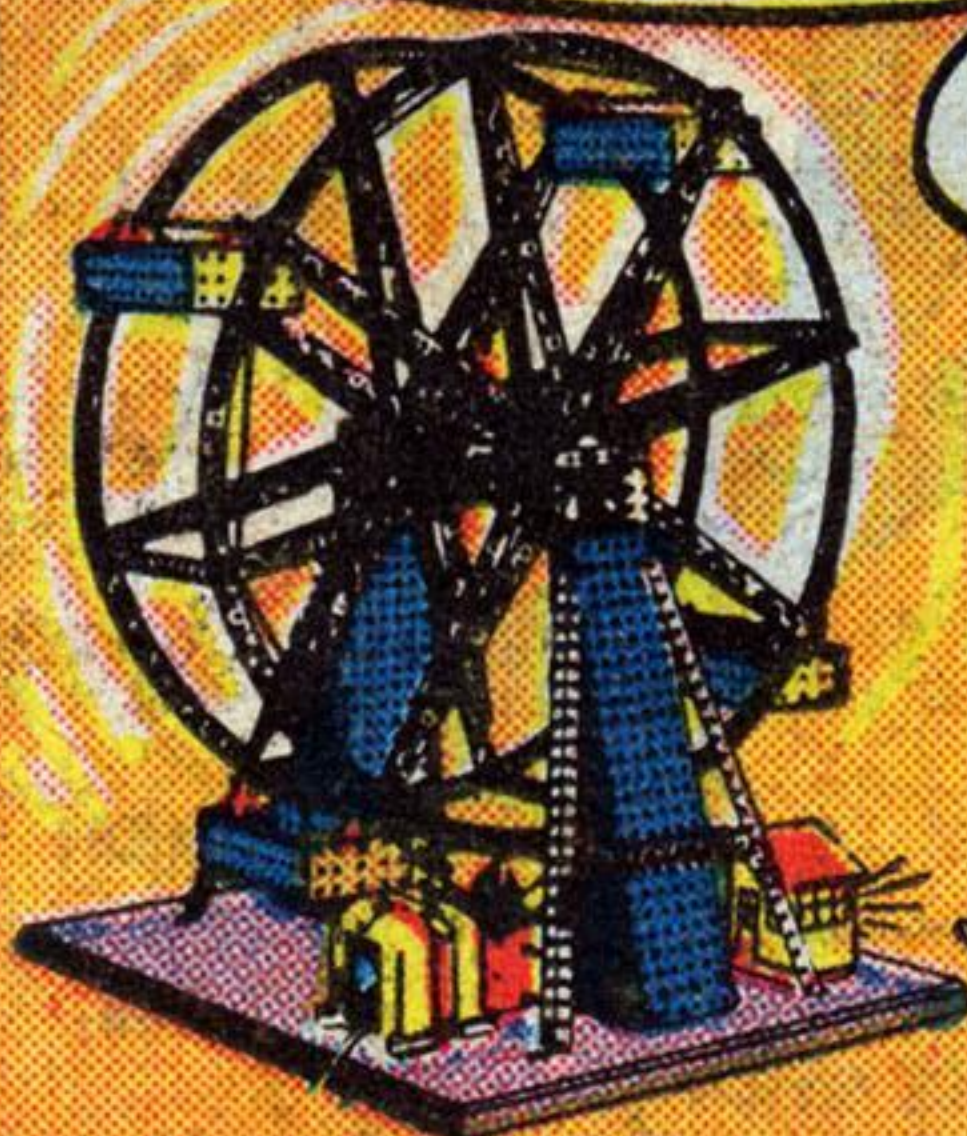


LOOK! HE'S MADE OF METAL!
HE HAS ELECTRIC EYES! HE
WALKS BY REMOTE CONTROL!
HE'S THE MYSTERIOUS
ERECTOR WALKING GIANT!



No. 12½ Erector has 3 powerful motors, over 35 pounds of parts. Builds mysterious walking giant, remote control tractors and crawlers, electromatic cranes and hundreds of other realistic action models. Greatest Erector of all time—\$50.00*

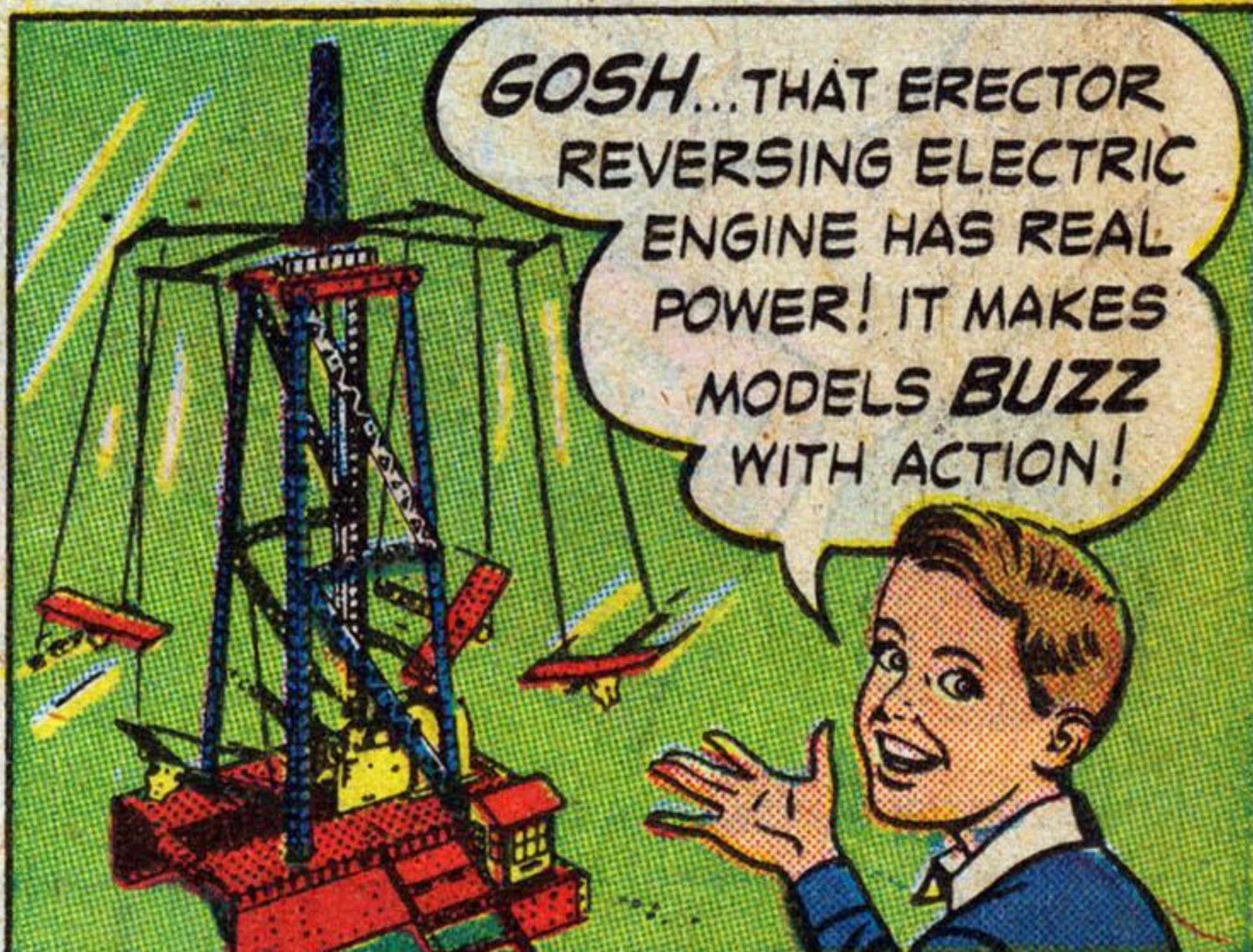
THIS GIANT FERRIS WHEEL HAS
ELECTRIC LIGHTS...OPERATES IN
BOTH DIRECTIONS
AT HIGH OR LOW
SPEED!



Built with No. 8½ Erector—the All-Electric Set. Most complete engineering outfit Dad can buy for \$19.95*



GOSH...THAT ERECTOR
REVERSING ELECTRIC
ENGINE HAS REAL
POWER! IT MAKES
MODELS BUZZ
WITH ACTION!



AIRPLANE RIDE BUILT WITH SENSATIONAL NO. 6½ ERECTOR.
Loads of fun at the sensational low price of \$10.00*

Fun with Erector starts the moment you open the big box and start to assemble girders, wheels, gears and other parts. Erector parts have equi-distant holes, so that you just count the holes to put them together. No other construction set builds the square girder with interlocking edges and contains so many parts. Curved, straight and giant steel girders. Metal base plates. Real engineering bolts and nuts. 5 kinds of gears. Electric engine. Electro-magnet. Electric lights. Engineer's shack. Boiler shells. Giant flywheel parts. Automobile wheels. See the new Erectors wherever toys are sold.

*Denver and west, prices slightly higher

THIS
EXCITING
BOOK WILL
HOLD YOU
SPELLBOUND
!!



Copy. 1948,
Nat'l Com.
Pub. Inc.

FREE! SUPERMAN!

shows you the wonders of the Gilbert Hall of Science

What did Superman see with his x-ray vision at the Gilbert Hall of Science? This 32-page book—crammed with color pictures—tells you all. Mail coupon or post card today.

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404 Erector Square, New Haven, Conn.
Rush free book "With Superman at the Gilbert Hall of Science."

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Street _____

City _____ State _____

(This offer good only in U. S. A.)

WHEN IN NEW YORK, VISIT THE GILBERT HALL OF SCIENCE, FIFTH AVE. AND 25TH ST. ADMISSION FREE!

CRIME CAN'T WIN

"Spotlight ON CRIME!"



TIME...OCTOBER, 1936/ PLACE...NEW YORK CITY/



ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THIS STORY IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

CRIME CAN'T WIN

...A FEW MINUTES LATER...

HURRY, MEN...
BREAK IT IN!

CRASH!

WE'RE TOO
LATE! THE
SAFE IS
EMPTY!

THE *PHANTOM THIEF*
HAS BEATEN US AGAIN...
JUST AS HE
THREATENED HE
WOULD!

LOOK!
A
NOTE!



LISTEN TO THIS...
"SORRY TO CAUSE YOU SO MUCH
GRIEF/
TOO BAD YOU'LL NEVER CATCH
THE *PHANTOM THIEF*!"

COME ON!
WE'LL REPORT
THIS TO
HEADQUARTERS!

THAT *PHANTOM*
THIEF MUST BE A
GHOST! NOBODY
HUMAN COULD
ESCAPE US SO
OFTEN!

A SECOND LATER, AFTER
THE POLICE HAVE LEFT
THE ROOM...

HO! HO! HO! AND SO ENDS
ANOTHER *PHANTOM THIEF*
ADVENTURE... UNTIL WE MEET
AGAIN, THE *PHANTOM THIEF*
WINS ONCE MORE!



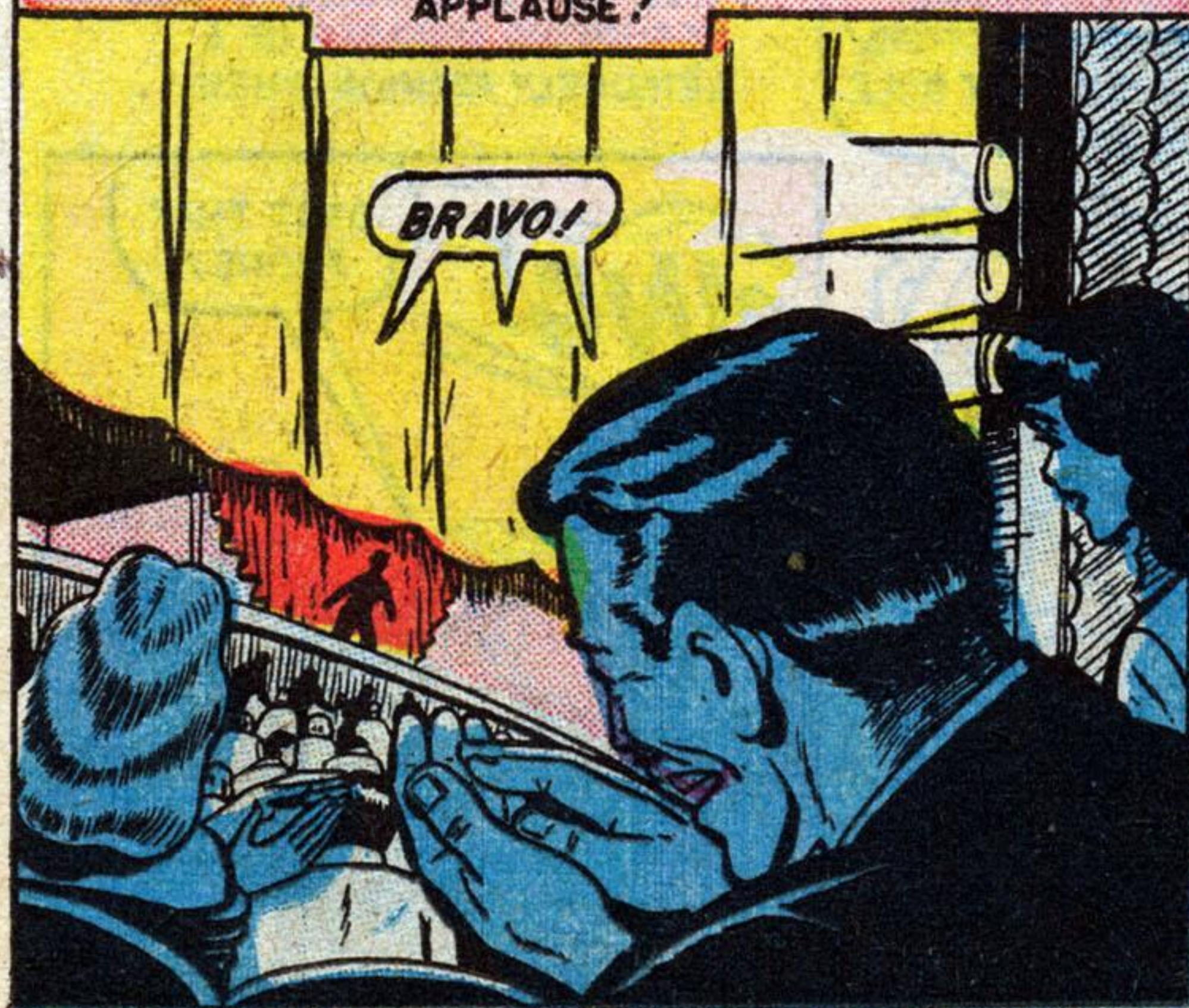
TOO BAD THEY DIDN'T
THINK TO LOOK FOR ME
BEHIND THIS DRAPE!

ON THAT DRAMATIC NOTE, THE CURTAIN RANG DOWN
ON THE STAGE OF THE OLD STELLAR THEATRE ON
BROADWAY'S TIMES SQUARE, TO THE DIN OF THUNDEROUS
APPLAUSE!

BRAVO!

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... OUR
BRILLIANT STAR... *RODNEY*
RICH! BETTER KNOWN
TO YOU AS "THE *PHANTOM*
THIEF!"

THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH!

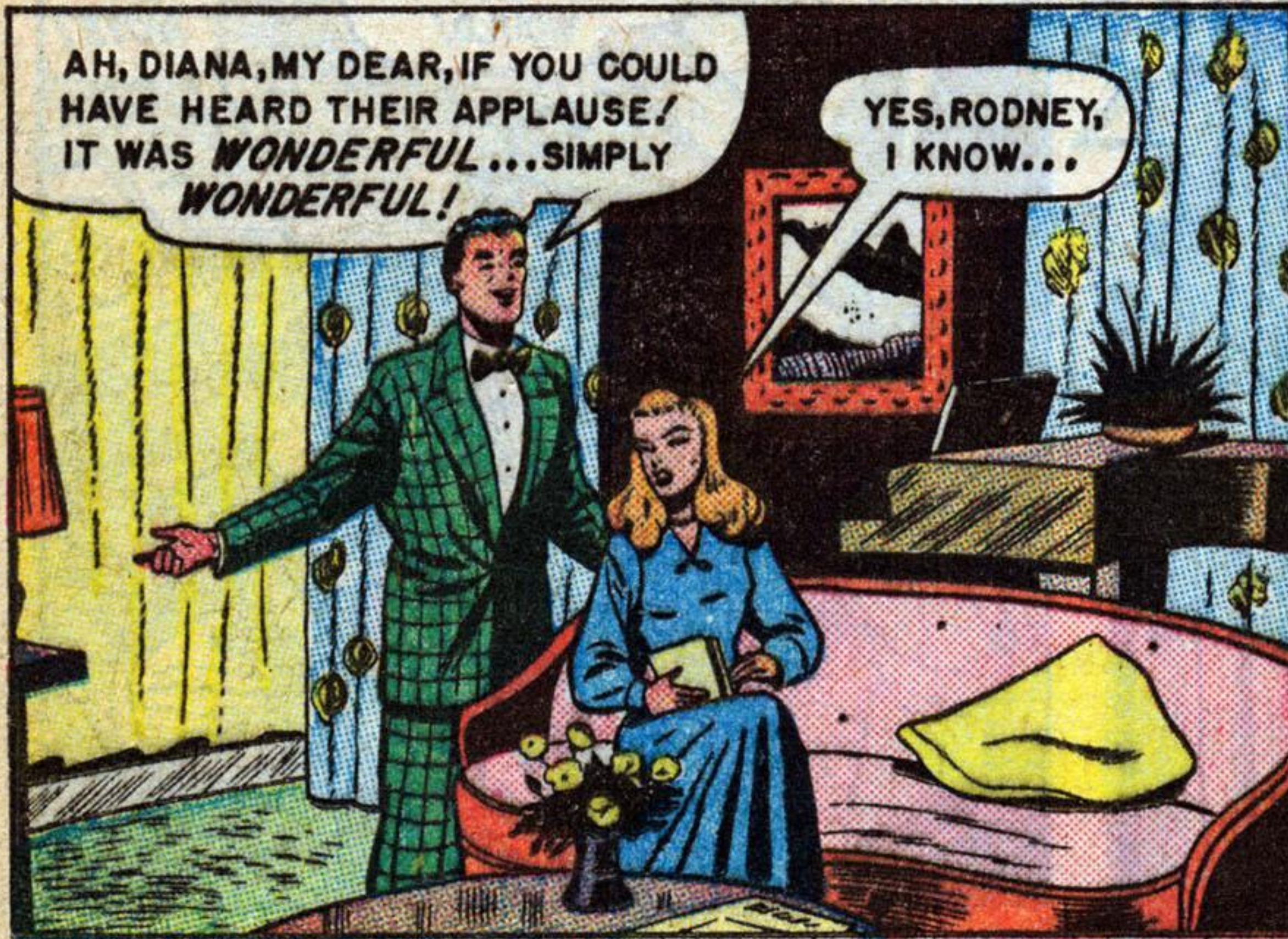


...YOU THINK THIS IS A STRANGE OPENING FOR A REIGN OF
CRIME WHICH WAS TO KEEP BROADWAY TALKING FOR
MONTHS? BUT WAIT... STRANGER THINGS WERE TO
COME!

FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

AT THE HOME OF RODNEY RICH, THE IDOL OF THE NEW YORK STAGE, A FAMILIAR SCENE REPEATED ITSELF BETWEEN RODNEY AND HIS WIFE...

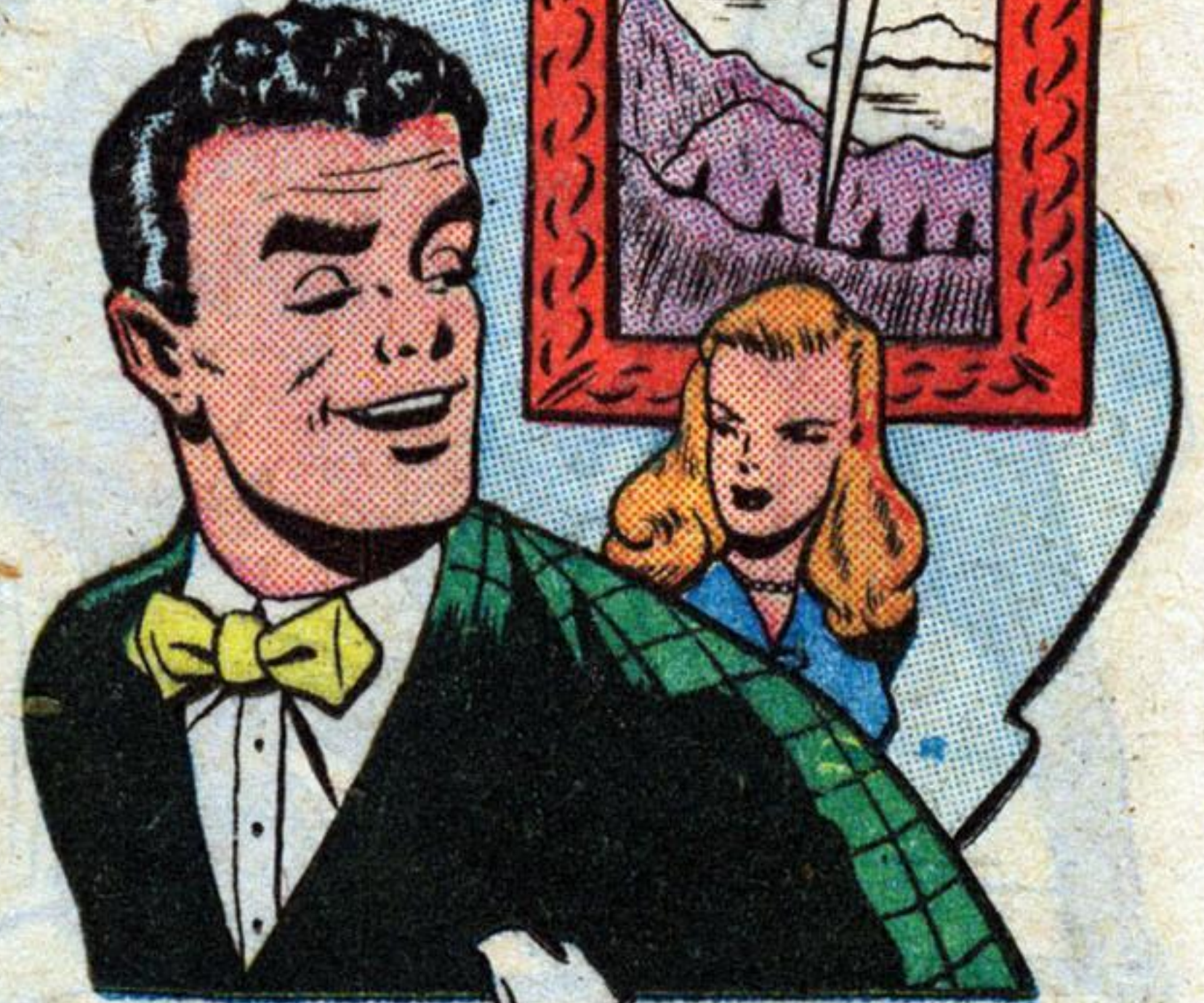


AH, DIANA, MY DEAR, IF YOU COULD HAVE HEARD THEIR APPLAUSE! IT WAS *WONDERFUL*...SIMPLY *WONDERFUL*!

YES, RODNEY, I KNOW...

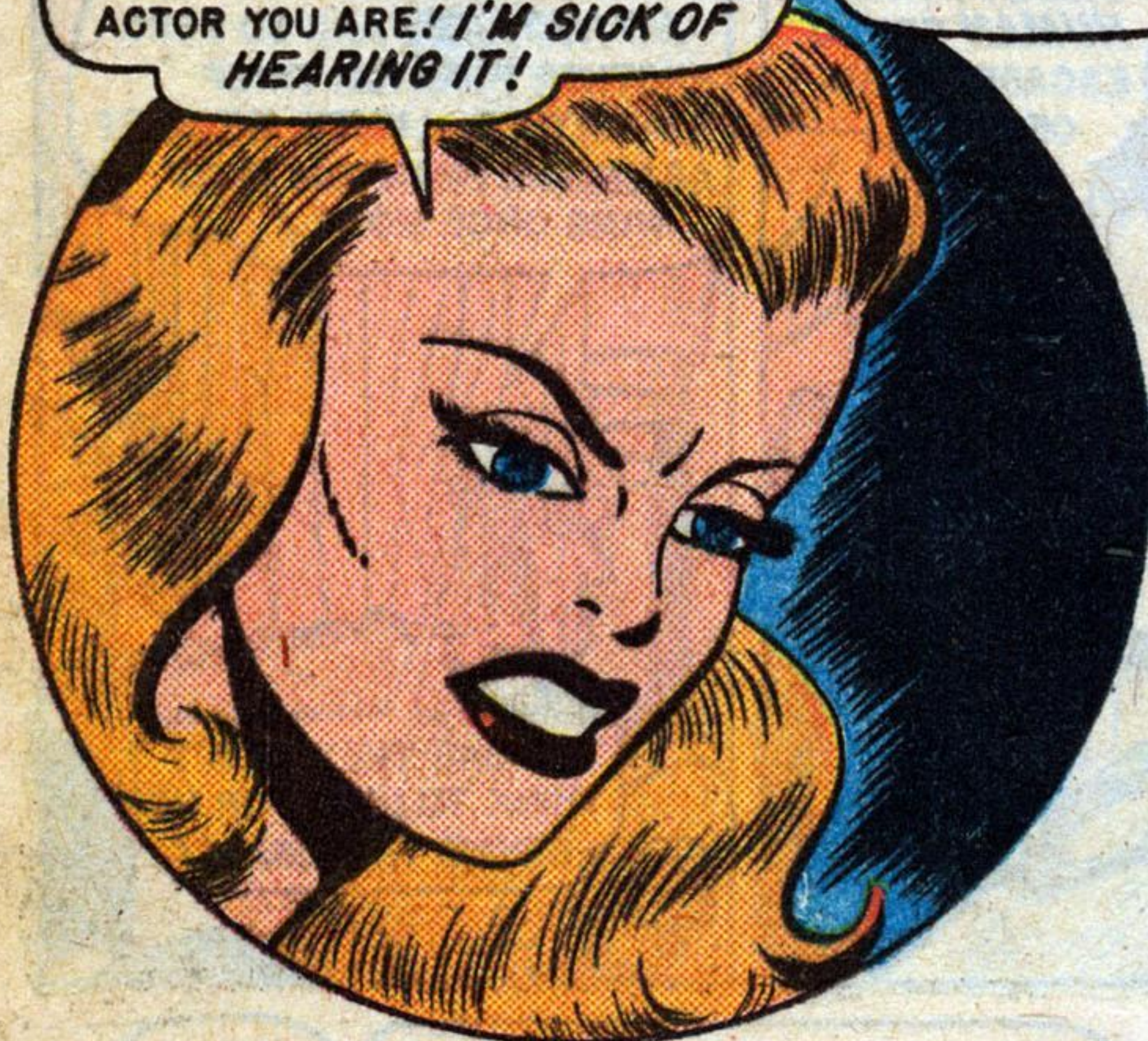
WHY, DIANA, MY DEAR... YOU SOUND *ANNOYED*! WHAT'S WRONG?

WRONG? I'LL TELL YOU WHAT'S *WRONG*?



IT'S THE *SAME THING EVERY NIGHT*! YOU COME HOME AND TELL ME WHAT A *WONDERFUL* ACTOR YOU ARE! I'M *SICK OF HEARING IT*!

YOU *BORE ME*! DO YOU HEAR? YOU *BORE ME*!



I—I NEVER WOULD HAVE SUSPECTED!



ON THAT EVENING OF OCTOBER 12, 1936, IN A FASHIONABLE GRAMERCY PARK APARTMENT, A CHANCE REMARK BY HIS ANGERED WIFE BROUGHT ABOUT A STRANGE TRANSFORMATION IN THE LIFE OF RODNEY RICH!

SO, SHE FINDS LIFE *BORING*, DOES SHE? THE FACT THAT I'M AN ACTOR ISN'T EXCITING ENOUGH FOR HER, IS IT? HMMM!

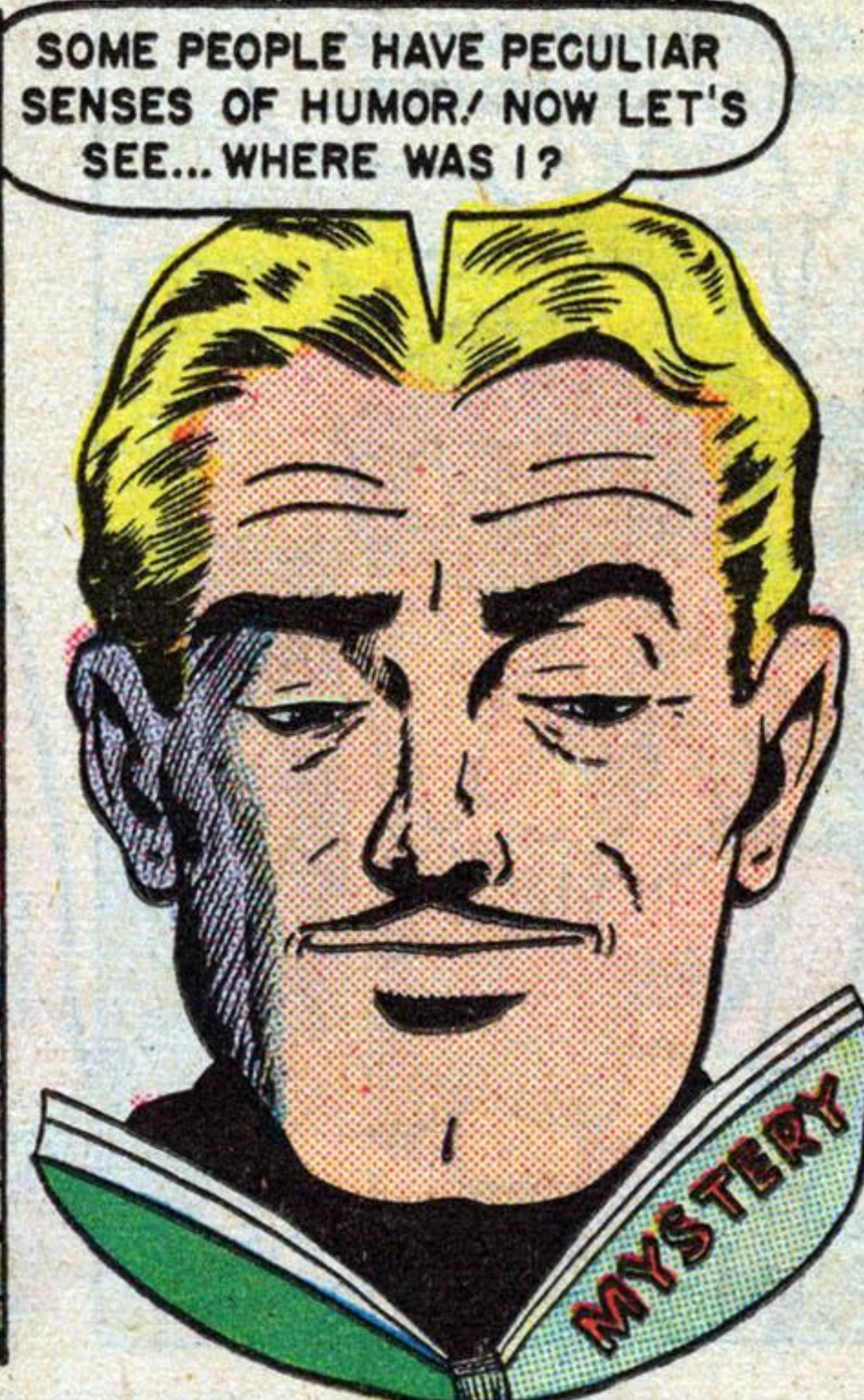
BY GEORGE, WHY *NOT*? I COULD DO IT! AFTER ALL, I'M AN ACTOR... ONE OF THE *GREATEST* ACTORS! AND I'VE PLAYED THAT ROLE ON THE STAGE OFTEN ENOUGH!

A FEW DAYS LATER, AT A DOWNTOWN POLICE PRECINCT, DETECTIVE-INSPECTOR MORRIS WAS OCCUPYING HIMSELF IN A LEISURELY FASHION, WHEN...



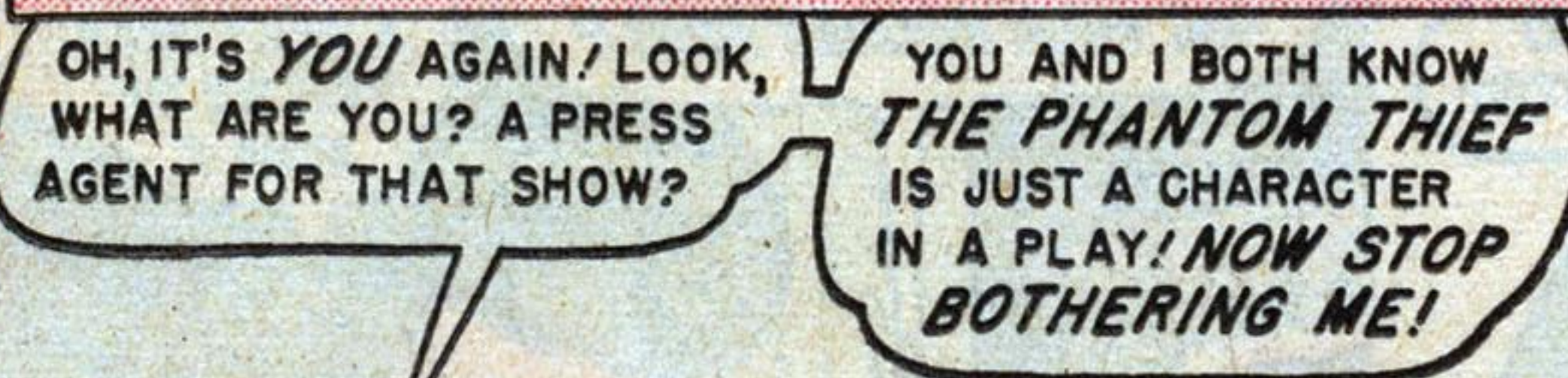
FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

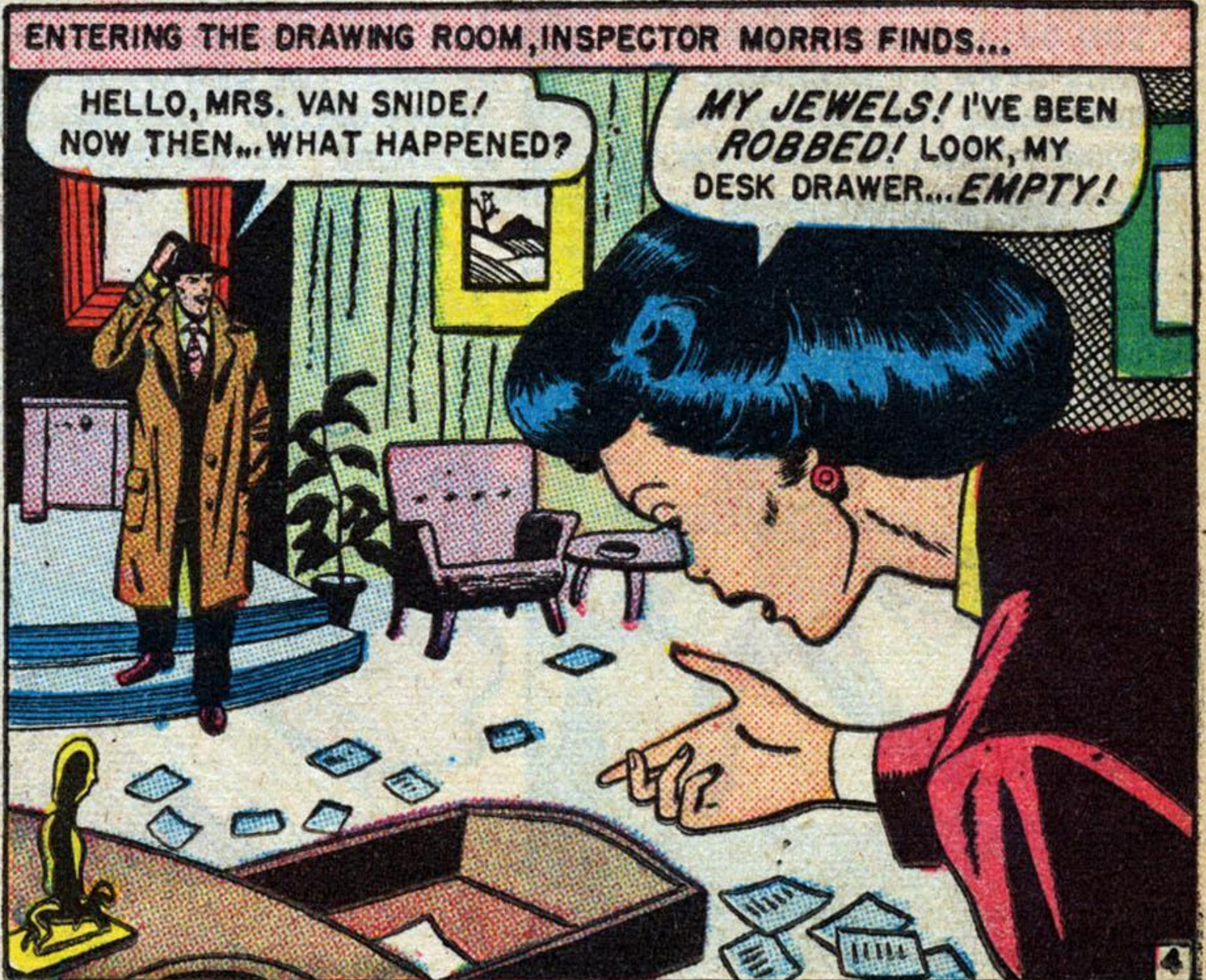


TO HIS SURPRISE, IT PROVED TO BE THE SAME VOICE AGAIN...

FINALLY, DETECTIVE-INSPECTOR MORRIS REALIZED THAT HE WAS NOT BEING FOOLED, AND...

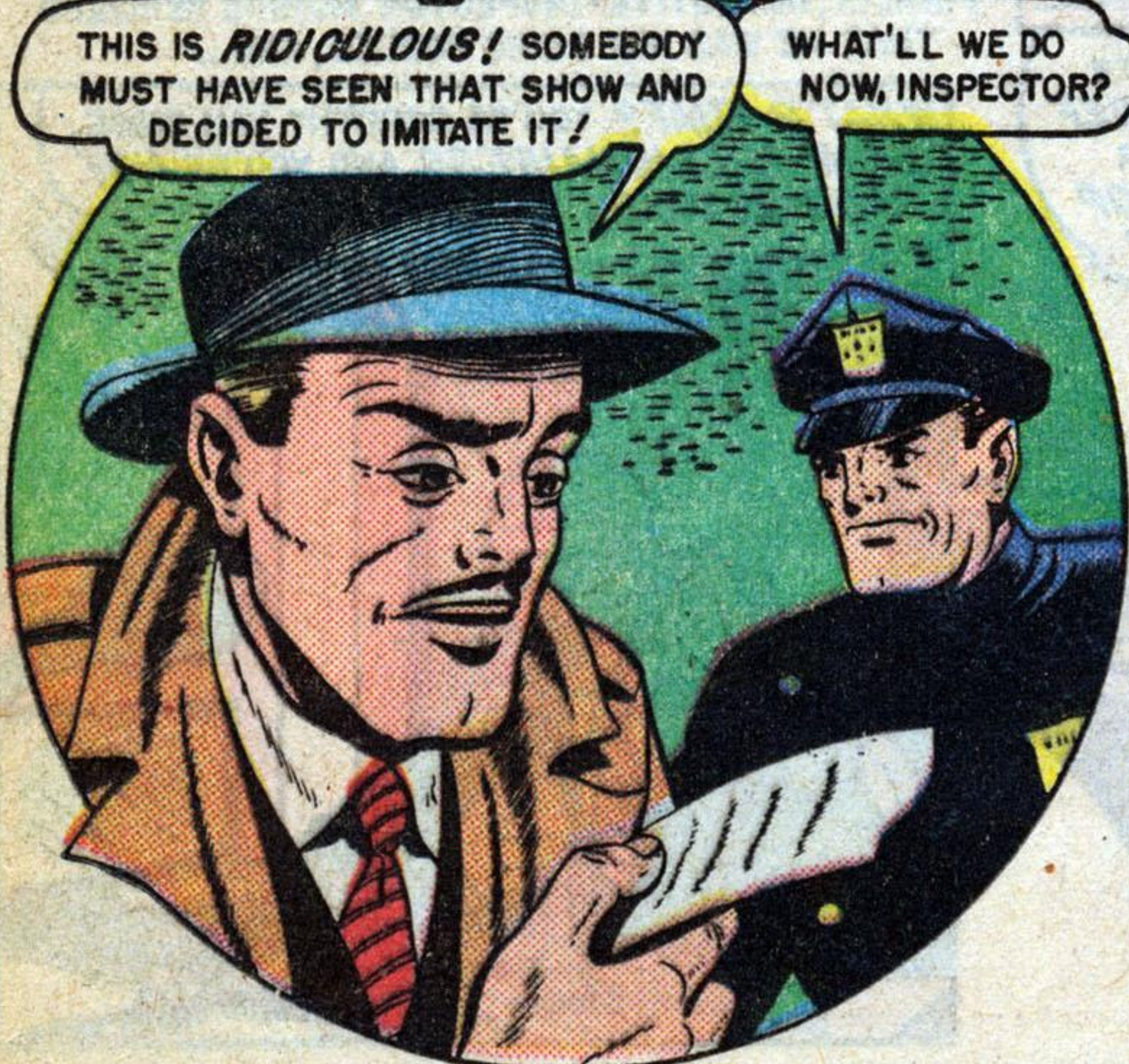
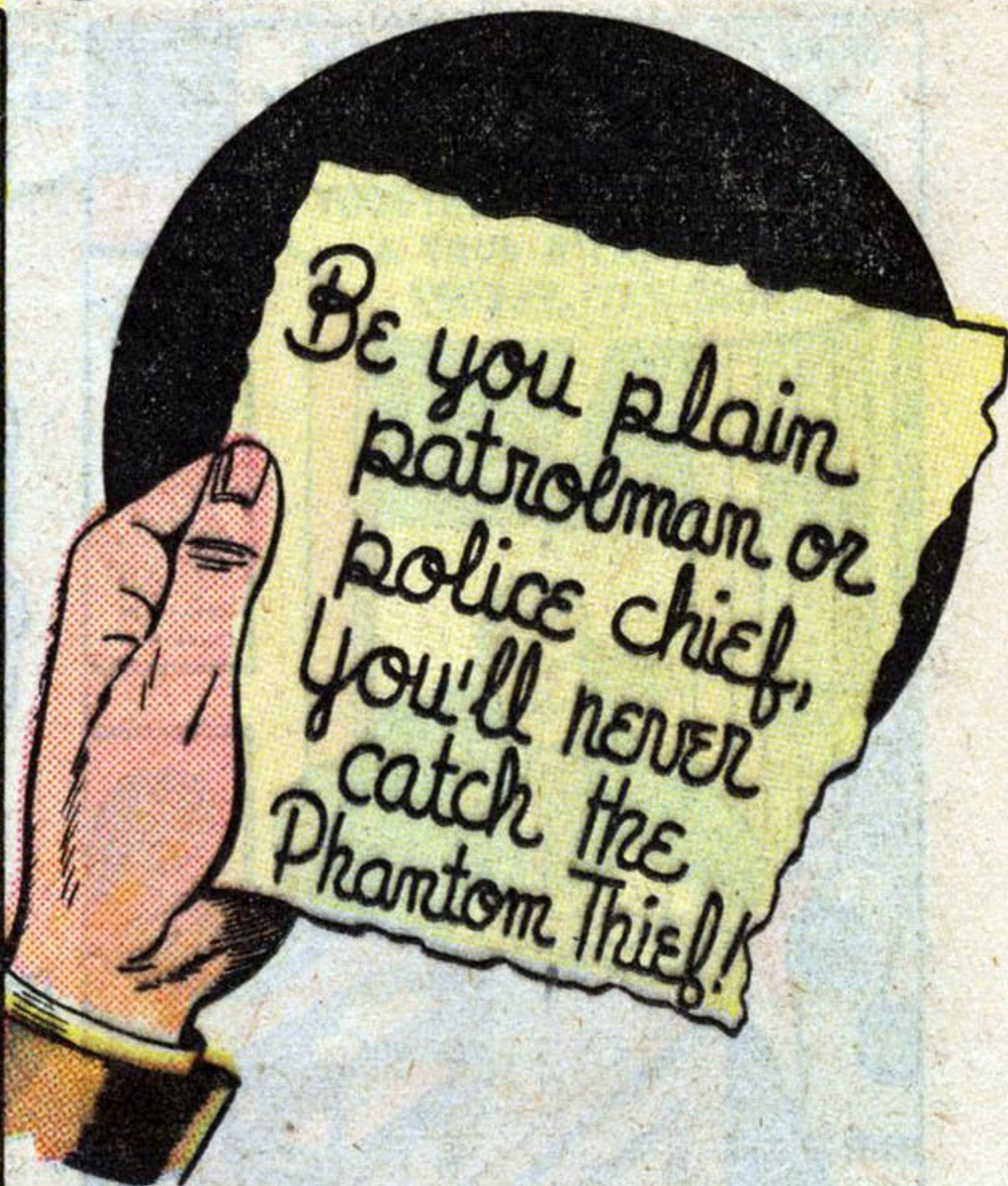


A FEW MINUTES LATER, A PATROL CAR CAREENED THROUGH THE NIGHT TOWARD THE VAN SNIDE MANSION ON UPPER FIFTH AVENUE...



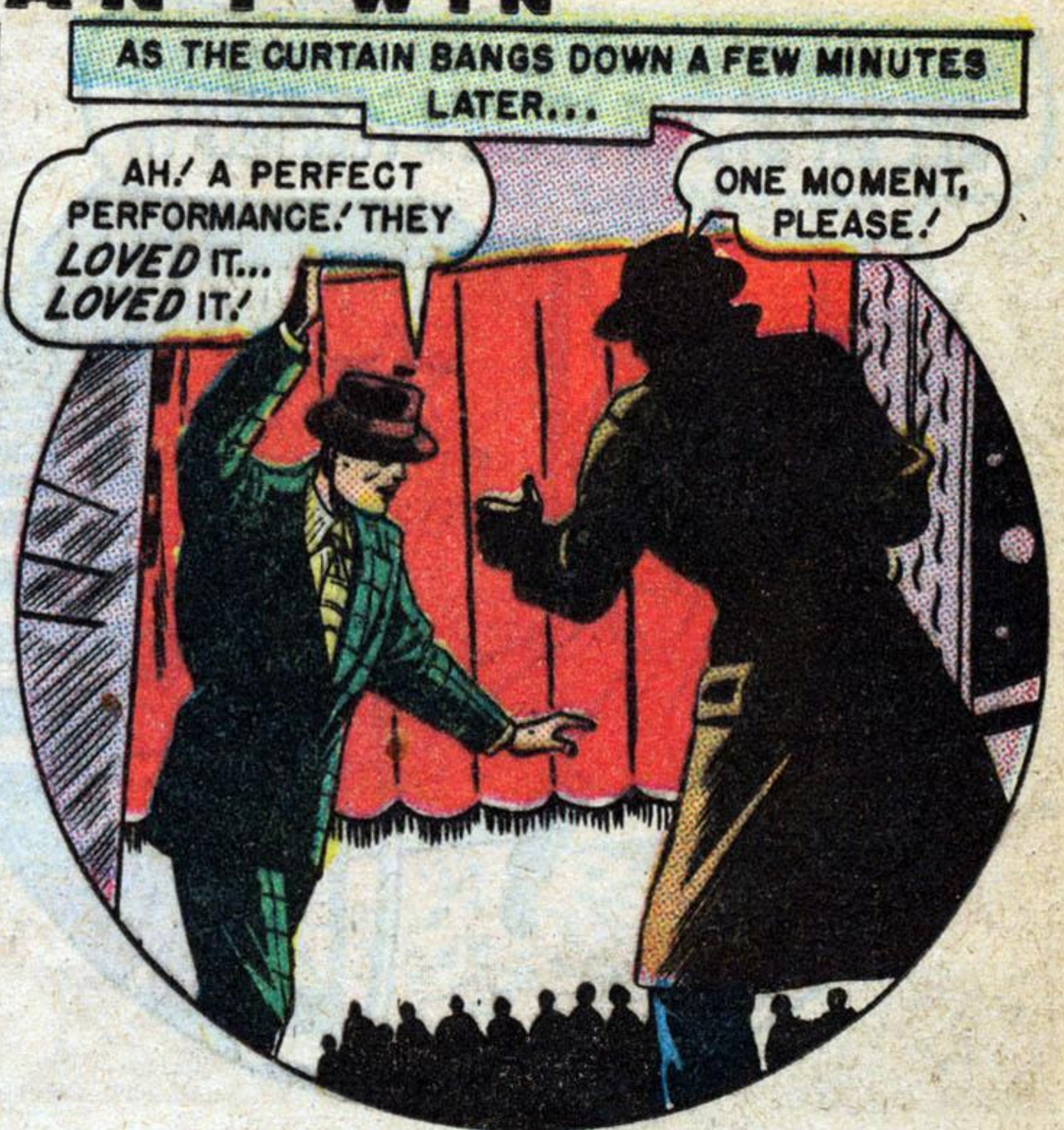
FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

BUT I WON'T BE PART OF YOUR SCHEME! NOT ONE WORD OF THAT SUPPOSED "ROBBERY" WILL GET INTO THE PAPERS IF I CAN HELP IT! AND I CAN HELP IT!

AFTER THE INSPECTOR LEFT, DIANA RICH, RODNEY'S WIFE, APPEARED ON THE SCENE...

I WONDER WHERE RODNEY WENT LAST NIGHT? I JUST... WHAT CAN THAT LOUD LAUGHTER BE?

HA!
HA!

RODNEY! WHAT IS IT? RODNEY, WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT? RODNEY!

HO! HO! HA! THIS'LL KILL YOU! HA! HA! WAIT'LL I... HA-HA! TELL YOU! HA! HA! HA!

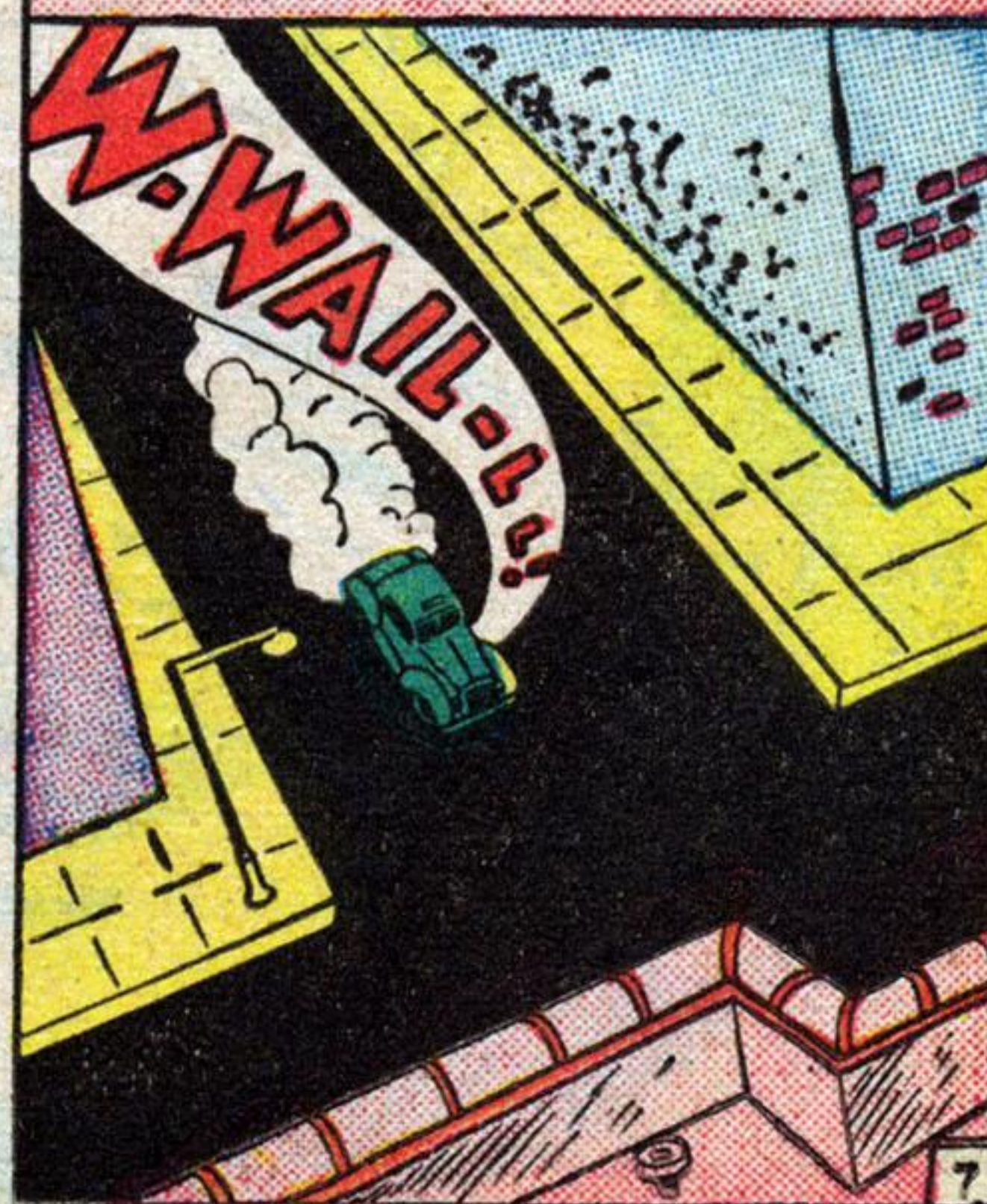
YOU (HA-HA) THOUGHT LIFE WAS TOO DULL, JUST BEING MARRIED TO AN ACTOR, EH? WELL, SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO BRING SOME EXCITEMENT INTO YOUR LIFE! HA/ HA/ YOU'RE NOW MARRIED TO A THIEF!

RODNEY! HAVE YOU GONE MAD?

NO, I'M QUITE SANE AND VERY AMUSED! I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU THESE THINGS BECAUSE A WIFE CAN'T TESTIFY AGAINST HER HUSBAND, AND NOBODY WOULD BELIEVE YOU ANYWAY! THEY THINK IT'S ALL A HOAX!

DIANA, MY DEAR, I HAVE BECOME THE PHANTOM THIEF IN REAL LIFE AS WELL AS UPON THE STAGE!

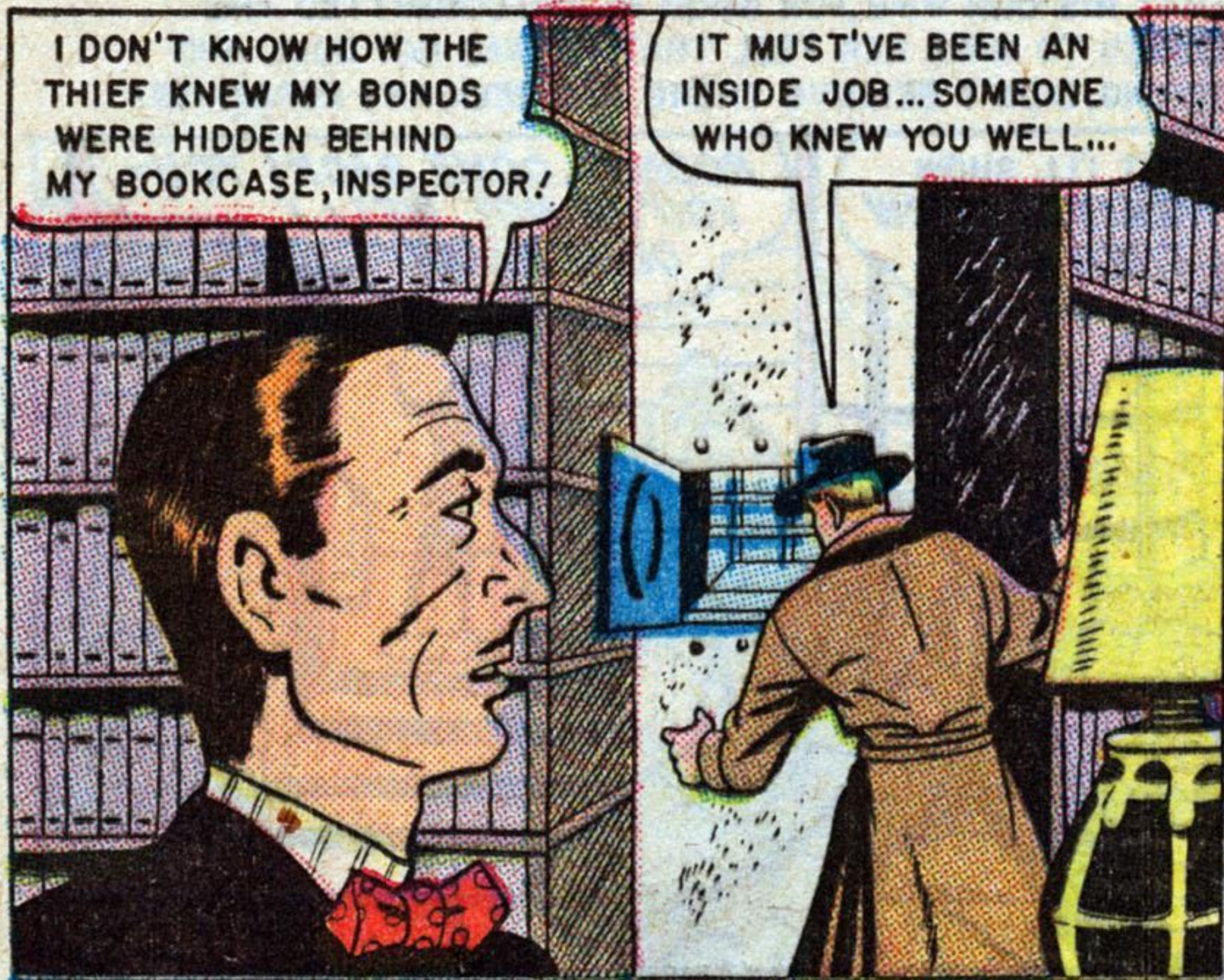
THE NEXT DAY, INSPECTOR MORRIS AGAIN FOUND HIMSELF SPEEDING TO THE SCENE OF A ROBBERY...



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

AND, IN THE APARTMENT OF ELLSWORTH BECK, MAN-ABOUT-TOWN, INSPECTOR MORRIS AGAIN FOUND...



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN



YOU'RE *RIGHT*! THEY'VE MADE *NO* MENTION OF ME! *THE FOOLS!* THEY REALLY *DIDN'T* BELIEVE ME!

THE HIGH-STRUNG, PERVERTED BRAIN OF THE GREAT ACTOR WAS STRAINED TO THE BREAKING POINT WHEN HE REALIZED THAT HIS OWN WIFE, FOR WHOM HE HAD COMMITTED THE CRIMES TO MAKE HER FEEL THAT HE WAS NOT DULL AND BORING, DIDN'T BELIEVE THERE HAD BEEN ANY ROBBERIES!



...BUT I'LL SHOW THEM! I'LL SHOW THEM ALL!

RODNEY, COME BACK! YOU-YOU'RE NOT WELL! COME BACK!

BUT AS RODNEY RICH STALKED THROUGH THE STREETS HE WAS UNAWARE OF THE QUIET, MENACING FIGURE WHO FOLLOWED HIS EVERY MOVE...

REACHING THE HOUSE OF EUGENE BRENT, RODNEY RICH SPRANG INTO ACTION...



I'LL GO TO THE HOME OF EUGENE BRENT, THE MAN WHO WRITES MY SHOWS! I KNOW THAT HE KEEPS HIS BONDS HIDDEN IN A SECRET COMPARTMENT OF HIS PIANO! *THEY'RE WORTH A FORTUNE!* WHEN I ROB THEM, IT'LL HAVE TO GET INTO THE PAPERS!



HOW RIDICULOUSLY *EASY* THIS IS FOR ME... JUST LIKE IN MY SHOW!

THE STRANGE, SINISTER FIGURE OF HIS PURSUER CLIMBED GRIMLY BEHIND...

INSIDE THE MUSIC ROOM...



I KNOW THE BONDS ARE IN HERE SOMEWHERE! AH, HERE THEY ARE!



...AND THE BONDS ARE GOING TO *STAY* IN THERE, RICH!

WHO?
WHA-?



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN



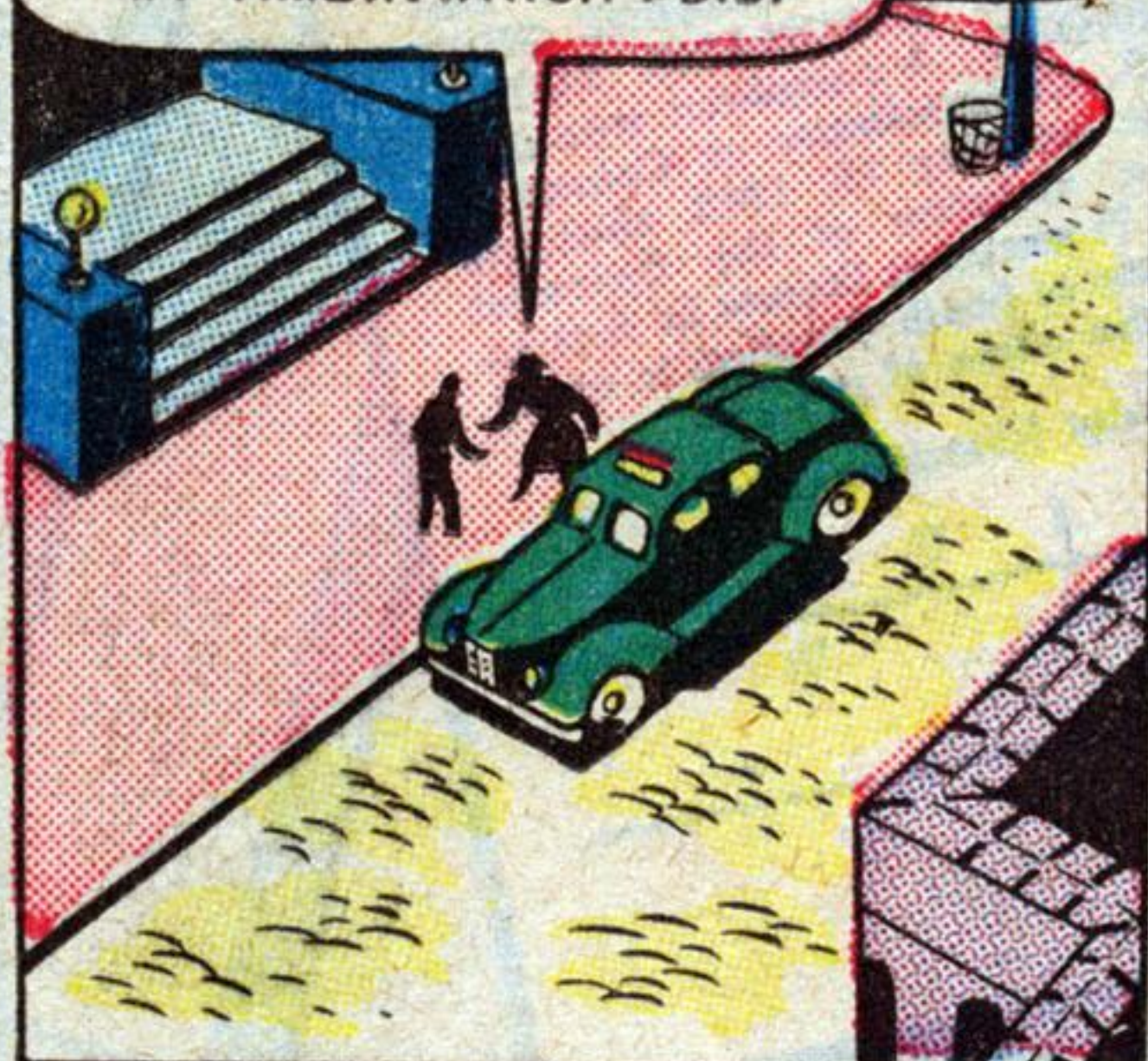
A FEW MINUTES LATER, ON THE WAY TO HEADQUARTERS...

IT WAS SIMPLE, RICH!
I SUSPECTED YOU FROM THE
FIRST... BUT YOU WERE TOO
CLEVER TO LEAVE ANY OBVIOUS
CLUES!

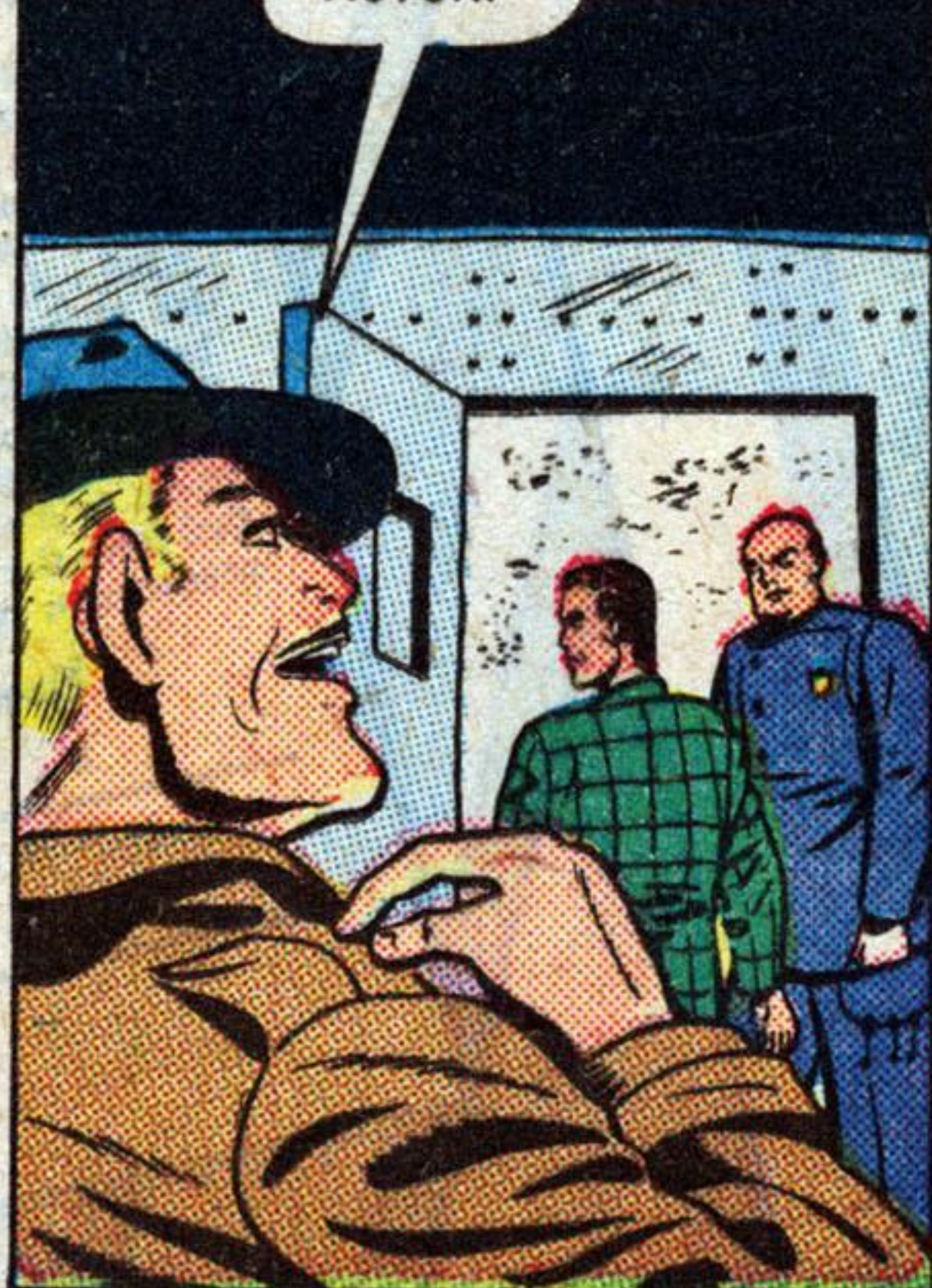
THERE WERE NO FINGERPRINTS
AND WE KNEW YOU DIDN'T HAVE
ANY OF THE STOLEN GOODS
ON YOUR PERSON!



SO I KNEW THAT THE ONLY WAY
TO TRAP YOU WAS THROUGH YOUR
OBVIOUS VANITY! BY PRETENDING
NOT TO BELIEVE IN THE ROBBERIES,
I KNEW YOU'D *CONTINUE* TO
COMMIT MORE BRAZEN ONES UNTIL
I *DID* BELIEVE IN THEM! ALL I HAD
TO DO WAS FOLLOW YOU AND BIDE
MY TIME... WHICH I DID!



SO YOU SEE, RICH, I WAS
REALLY THE *BETTER*
ACTOR!

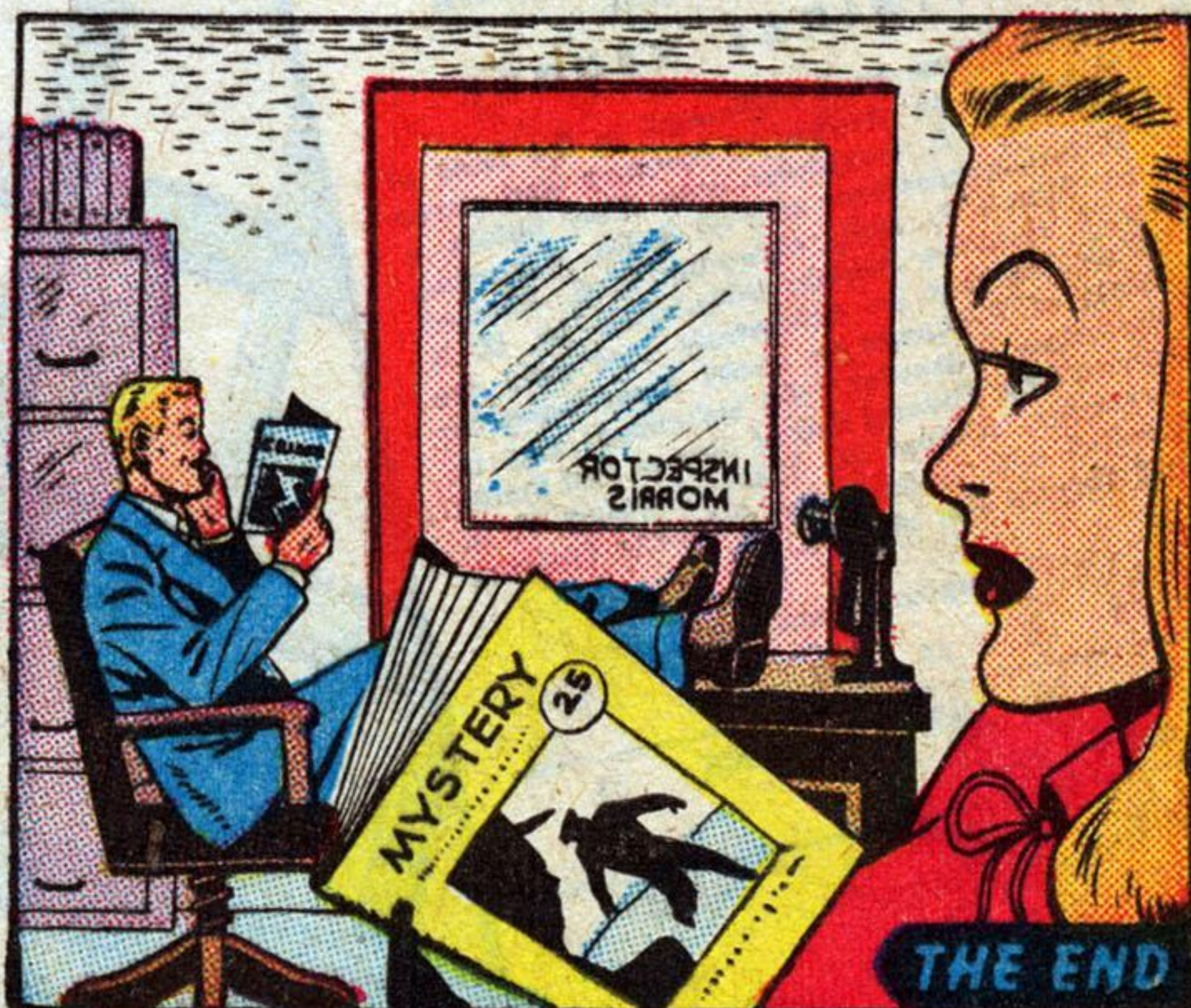
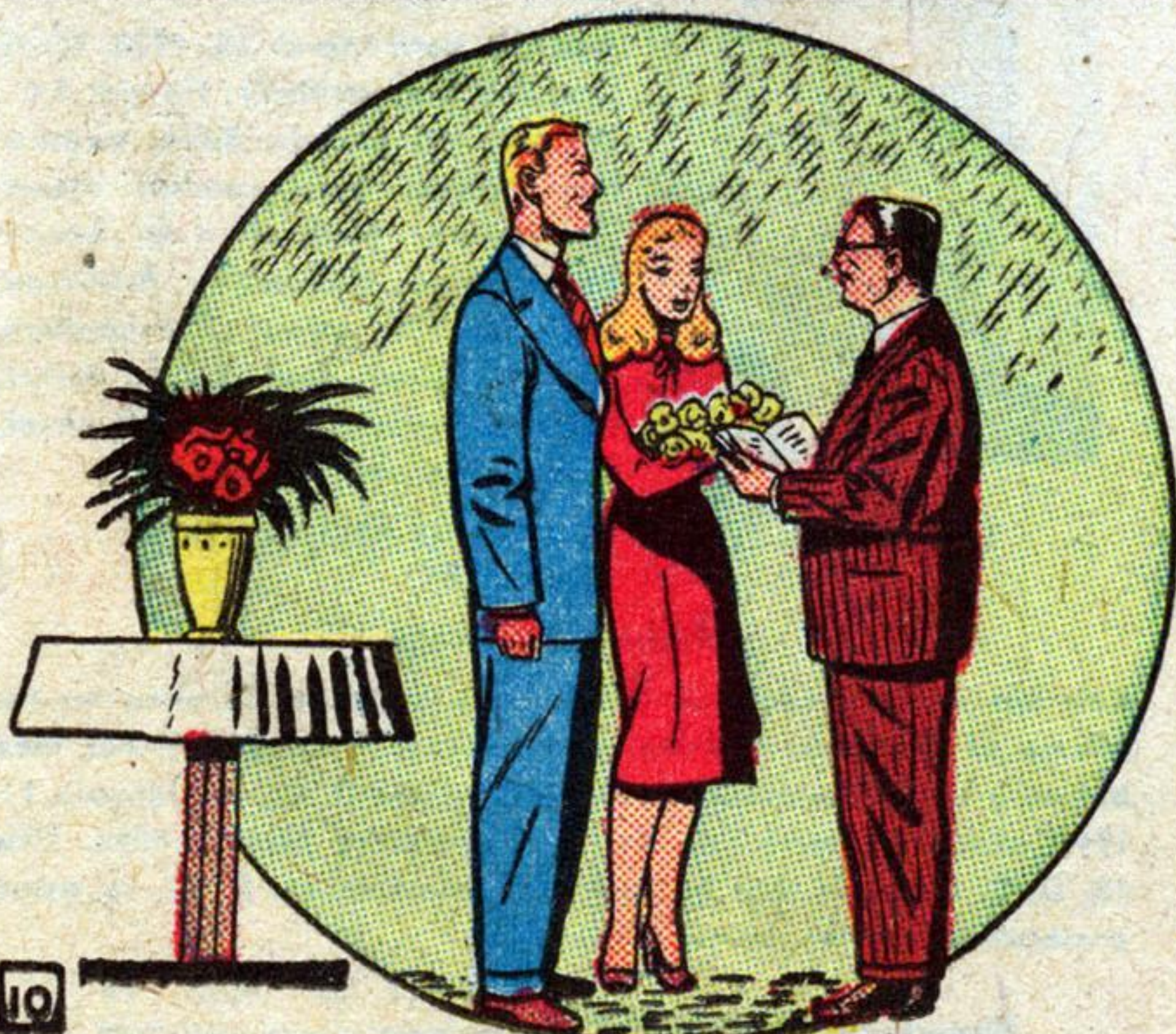


AS FOR RODNEY RICH, HE NEVER *DID*
SERVE TIME IN PRISON! NO, NOT
BECAUSE HE WAS TOO CLEVER, BUT
BECAUSE HIS MIND FINALLY SNAPPED
UNDER THE FINAL SHOCK... AND TO
THIS DAY, HE'S BEEN AN INMATE OF
A PRIVATE INSTITUTION FOR THE
INSANE!



AS A FINAL FOOTNOTE TO ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING
CASES BROADWAY HAD EVER SEEN, INSPECTOR MORRIS
SOON MARRIED DIANA RICH, AFTER SHE HAD SUCCEEDED
IN GETTING A DIVORCE FROM RODNEY...

BUT WHETHER OR NOT DIANA FINALLY FOUND
THE EXCITEMENT AND RELIEF FROM BOREDOM
WHICH SHE HAD WANTED... THAT, WE CAN ONLY
GUESS AT!



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

WANTED

BY THE

FBI

\$100 REWARD

WILL BE PAID FOR INFORMATION
LEADING TO THE ARREST OF
ANY OF THESE FUGITIVES!

V. S. MITCHELL



With aliases: Ursey Mitchell, "Bear"

DESCRIPTION

Age, 34, born October 3, 1914, Strong, Arkansas; Height, 5 feet 8½ inches; Weight, 165 pounds; Eyes, brown; Hair, black, kinky; Complexion, black; Build, stocky; Race, Negro; Nationality, American; Education, 6th grade; Occupation, laborer; Scars and marks, scars on right shin.

UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
PROSECUTION FOR MURDER
VIOLATION OF THE SELECTIVE
SERVICE ACT

CRIMINAL RECORD

Mitchell has been sentenced in the State of Arkansas on charges of burglary and grand larceny. A complaint was filed before a U. S. Commissioner at Fort Smith, Arkansas, on March 7, 1945, charging V. S. Mitchell with violating Section 408e, Title 18, U. S. Code, in that he unlawfully fled from the State of Arkansas to avoid prosecution for the crime of murder. An indictment was returned by a Federal Grand Jury at Fort Smith, Arkansas, August 26, 1942, charging V. S. Mitchell with violating the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940.

Fingerprint Classification:

15 0 25 W 100

S 23 W MII 16

Ref: 25

19

FRED WILLIAMS POOLE



With aliases: Fred William Burckhauser, C. F. Hoefler, F. C. Hoefler, John M. Quinn, Fred Walker, Frederick A. Williams

DESCRIPTION

Age, 60, born October 23, 1887, North, South Carolina; Height, 5 feet 7½ inches; Weight, 145 pounds; Eyes, blue; Hair, brown, greying; Complexion, fair; Build, medium; Race, white; Nationality, American; Education, eighth grade; Occupations, mechanic, cook; Scars and marks, upper and lower front teeth out; Peculiarities, walks erect with head down.

UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
PROSECUTION FOR MURDER

CRIMINAL RECORD

Poole has an extensive criminal record, having been arrested numerous times since 1912 in South Carolina, Maryland, Ohio, Alabama, and Texas. His criminal specialty is burglary. POOLE HAS TWO MACHINE GUNS AND .45 CALIBER AUTOMATIC PISTOL. HE IS DANGEROUS. A complaint was filed before a U. S. Commissioner at Columbia, South Carolina, on May 15, 1943, charging subject with a violation of the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution Statute in that he fled from the State of South Carolina to avoid prosecution for the crime of murder.

Fingerprint Classification:

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HARRY LEE KERR

With aliases: Harry Lee Carr, Harry Lee



DESCRIPTION

Age, 30, born March 25, 1918, North Carolina (not verified); Height, 5'4"; Weight, 150 pounds; Build, medium; Hair, black; Eyes, reddish brown; Complexion, medium dark brown; Race, Negro; Nationality, American; Education, 6 years; Occupations, kitchen helper and hotel worker; Scars and marks, scar on left cheek, scar beside right nostril.

UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION
FOR BURGLARY

CRIMINAL RECORD

Kerr has served a sentence in the State of North Carolina for the offense of breaking, entering, and larceny. A complaint was filed before a U. S. Commissioner at Washington, D. C., on January 11, 1944, charging Harry Lee Kerr with violating Section 408e, Title 18, U. S. Code, in that he fled from Washington, D. C., to avoid prosecution for the crime of burglary.

10 S 17 W 100 17

Fingerprint Classification:

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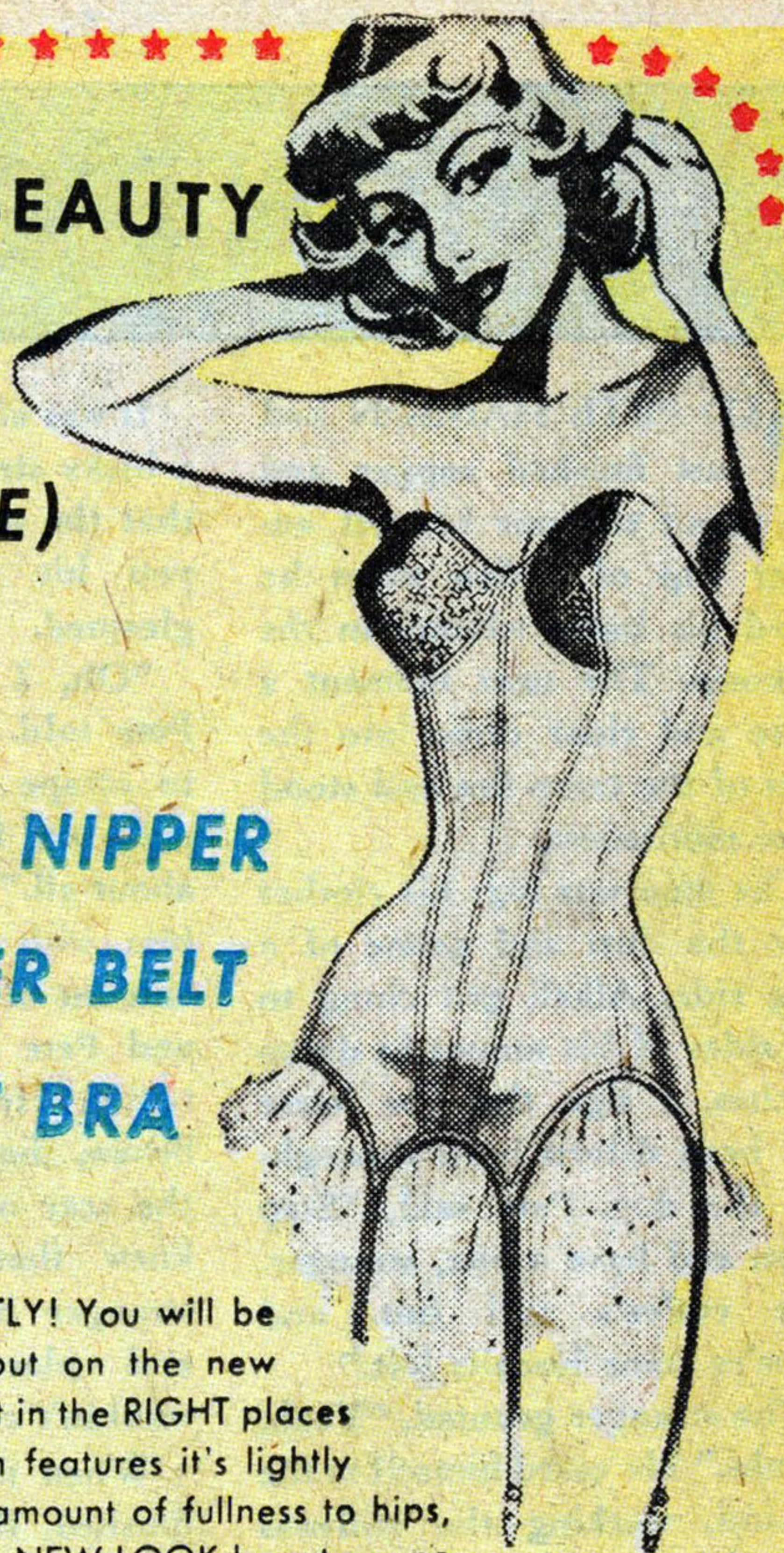
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WITH THE NEW (ALL★IN★ONE)
THREE★N★ONE



**YOU GET
ALL THESE
IN
ONE**

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- 2. GARTER BELT
- 3. UPLIFT BRA



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WITH A 10 DAY FREE TRIAL

If THREE★N★ONE doesn't do the wonders for your figure as it has for others, if you're not delighted with your new daring new look beauty, if you are not 100% satisfied your money will be refunded at once.

MAIL COUPON NOW

THREE★N★ONE CO., Dept. M-20
871 Broad St., Newark, New Jersey

Send me at once for \$5.95 cash, check or money order the THREE★N★ONE. If I am not 100% satisfied my money will be refunded. Cup _____ Size _____

1st Color Choice

2nd Color Choice

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

SENT ON 10 DAY APPROVAL

Enjoy

★ FULL BOSOM FIGURE
★ TINY WAIST
★ NEW LOOK
★ ALLURING BUST

STRAPS
INCLUDED
Be enticingly
strapless
or wear
straps

5.95

★ NUDE
★ WHITE
★ BLUE
★ BLACK

COSTS SO LITTLE

NIGHT OF TERROR

OLD PETE HANSON had just finished supper and was about to pour himself another cup of coffee when he heard his horse whinny in the darkness. The next moment a horse and rider came into the light of the camp fire and stood there motionless.

The man was big; his clothes bore the dust and grime of a long ride. Alkali grit clung to the sides of his mount in damp patches, a sign that the horse had been driven hard throughout the day. Pete said, "Step down and have a bite, stranger. The coffee's still hot, and there're some biscuits left."

The stranger grunted, "Yeah, thanks." He eased himself to the ground, working the stiffness from his legs, then hitched his two guns higher on his waist. Pete pulled another tin cup from his sack, filled it and handed it to the fellow. As the light passed over his face briefly, Pete gave him a sharp look. Somewhere he had seen this man before.

Their eyes met momentarily. "What's the matter?" the man said tersely.

"Nothing. You look familiar, that's all. You from around here?"

"No."

Apparently that ended the conversation, but Pete had been alone too long to notice the anger in the man's voice. He continued telling the stranger about the excitement of prospecting, never noticing that the only reply he received was an occasional grunt.

It was after he had mentioned a lucky strike on the north side that the man said, "You mean you hit it rich?" His eyes gleamed.

"Oh, I wouldn't say that," Pete told him. "I did manage to scrape up enough to grubstake me for a year, but that's about all." Again the man plied him with questions about the amount of gold he had found, and Pete scanned his face intently. He saw the dark eyebrows; the black, slit eyes and the scar on his cheek, and he knew that he had met this stranger before, but the time and place of the meeting wouldn't come to him.

When the pot of coffee was finished, Pete said, "Well, let's hit it. I'm ready for some sleep. Got a long ride to town tomorrow." The man nodded and untied his bed roll. From the corner of his eye, Pete noticed the stranger watching him closely, and a feeling of danger swept over him. It was intensified because he had no gun, nothing with which to protect himself, and in his saddlebags that he was intending to use as a pillow was five hundred dollars in gold. The two men chose spots on either side of the fire, said good night and crawled into their sleeping bags.

Pete didn't know how long he slept, but he awoke with an awful start, cold sweat breaking out on his forehead. The stranger? Yes, he was still there, unmoving. Pete knew who he was now, and why not? Every tree within a hundred miles

bore a reward poster with his picture, offering five thousand dollars for this notorious man, dead or alive! Bucky Lear—cattle thief, bank robber and killer!

And he knew why Bucky had stopped here. Somewhere behind him was a posse, and he was heading for the border—and Pete knew that before morning, Bucky would kill him for his gold to insure his protection in getting safely to Mexico! Even now he might be awake, waiting to kill him!

What could he do without a gun? He was like a cornered rabbit, waiting for the blast of the gun. Pete heard Bucky turn and grunt, saw his hand in the dimming light resting around his gun butt. At the slightest sound he knew this outlaw would come to life, shooting slugs that meant instant death.

Pete's mind whirled in circles, thinking hard. His hand felt the ground for even a good-sized rock, but all he could reach was a piece of rope he had thrown away earlier. Then into his mind came a plan. Slowly, he drew the short, thick length of rope closer to him until he had it beside him. Then he forced himself to remain quietly awake. Bucky was tired; maybe he'd be careless and fall asleep. Pete was banking his life on that!

Luck was with him. A half hour before daylight Bucky had begun to breathe heavily. Then Pete moved. His hand flipped the piece of rope which he had managed to wind into

SHOP BY MAIL.



6 POWER TELESCOPE

NOT A TOY! Sturdily built of tough ebony-like plastic. A beauty to look at... a thrill to look through! See the moon 6 TIMES LARGER than with the naked eye! See birds, wild life, scenery UP CLOSE from miles away! A once-in-a-lifetime bargain. Order several now!

SEND NO MONEY!

Just send name and address. Pay postman only \$1.00 plus postage on delivery. We pay postage if you send a dollar bill! Hurry! Quantities limited—order today!

ELLIOTT PRODUCTS,
Dept. M-12, 2906 W. Fullerton Ave., Chicago 47, Ill.

EXTRA!

Beautiful, leatherette carrying case. Protects scope from rain, dust, dirt. Makes it easy to carry scope anywhere! — Yours Without Extra Cost if you order right away.



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SEND NO MONEY! Just clip ad and mail with name, address, ring size and style. Pay postman only \$2.98 plus few cents postage on arrival. Or send cash and we mail postpaid. Wear for 5 days. If not delighted, return for refund.

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Quality plus—yet priced to beat all competition. All metal with adjustable focusing wheel and shoulder strap. Tubes extend for sharp, instant view of distant objects. **SEND NO MONEY!** Clip ad and mail. We'll ship C.O.D. Check here if you want handsome Carrying Case for only 50c extra. []

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Most thrilling, unique idea in years! Your first name or nickname in artistic script, lettering as the setting on a beautiful ring! Stays clear and sharp for years and years. Withstands washing, rubbing, wear. A thrilling keepsake—a magnificent gift! Order yours today. Print name to be inscribed.

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Submit one or more of your best poems for free examination. Any subject. Send poem. **PHONOGRAPH RECORDS MADE.**
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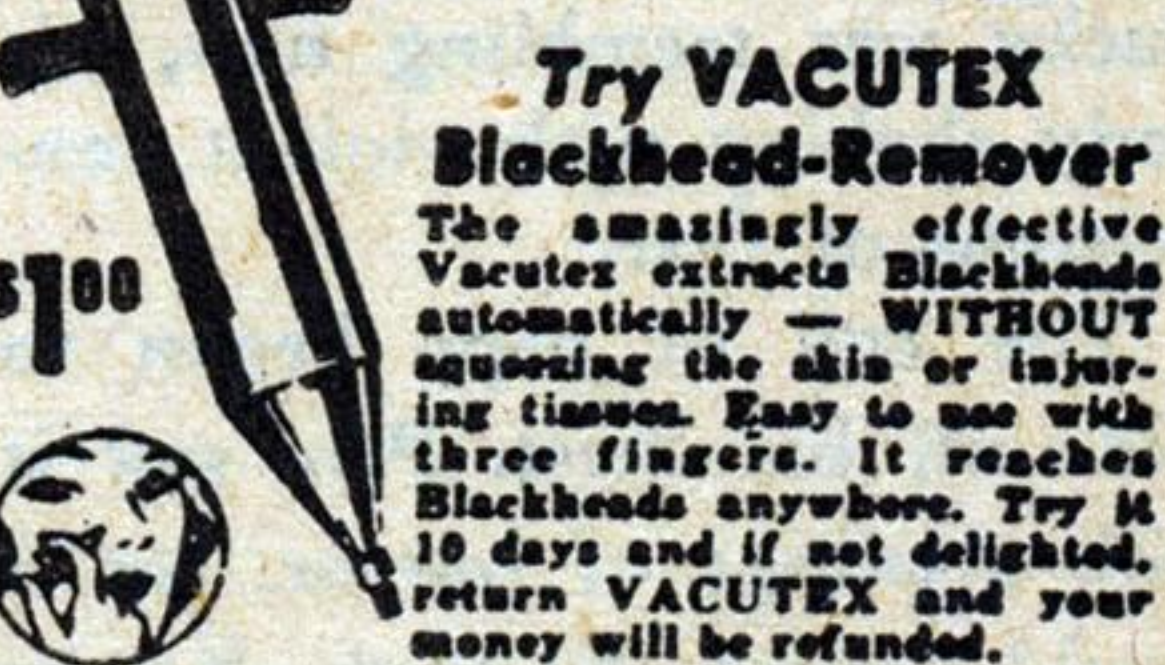
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SORRY. NO C.O.D.'s OUTSIDE U.S.A.

a ten-inch coil, and it landed on Bucky's chest!

The outlaw stirred, then started to come awake, but Pete couldn't wait for that. He called out, "Mister, don't move if you're awake. Speak to me!"

Instantly, Bucky's eyes snapped open, fully alert, though sleep-drugged. "What is it?" he demanded. His hand went to his gun.

"For gosh sakes, don't move, mister. There's a rattler on your chest! He must have crawled up there to get warm. If you move, you're a dead duck!"

Bucky's eyes moved, his face grew rigid. "It—it's a rattler all right! You gotta get it off me! Do something!"

"Mister, I don't have a gun. If I knock him off, he's liable to strike you and we're fifty miles from a doc. You'd be dead by then."

Fear came into Bucky's face. "Here—I'll try to slide my gun over to you. Take it and shoot him, but hurry—and you gotta make the first shot count! Hit him in the head. Any place else would just make him mad, and I'd get bitten a dozen times before you'd be able to fire again!"

Pete reached out his hand slowly. Bucky was in an awkward position to look down at his chest, but if he realized it was a hoax—well, there would be no more prospecting for him! Pete put on a good show, acting as if getting close to that "snake" was taking all his nerve. Bucky was trembling now, his body shaking with violent convulsions of fear.

The coil of rope began to slide off his chest. Pete saw it with a twinge of horror, for it would expose the trick. But to Bucky, the sudden movement meant the deadly snake was uncoiling, preparing to strike. He pushed the gun over to Pete's hand. "Hurry, man, get this

thing off me before I get it. Quick—it's moving again!" His eyes were orbs of fright, for in this country rattlers are the terror of man and animals alike. Their bite was swift and deadly, and the fear of those fangs would keep Bucky immobile—as long as he believed it was a snake!

Pete couldn't wait another moment. He grabbed the six-shooter and thumbed back the hammer. He wasn't a second too soon. The coil of rope slid down Bucky's chest and rolled to the ground. He let out a yell when it moved. Then he saw what it was. His hand was a blur of speed as he reached for his other gun, but before he got it clear of the holster, he was looking down the muzzle of the gun in Pete's hand. Slowly, trembling with rage, his hands reached for the sky.

It was a strange pair that pulled into the town of Cutler's Creek the next afternoon, one tied firmly to his horse, the other riding behind, carrying a gun in each hand. Sheriff John Biley and the rest of the townspeople could hardly believe their eyes, and the sheriff wanted to be the first to hear the story of the capture of this notorious outlaw. He led Bucky to the jail, then Pete to his office. "Okay, old-timer, let's hear all about this," he said.

Pete never did have much to talk about so he was going to make the most of his one big story. "Well, sheriff," he began, "after thirty years of prospecting, I make my first big strike, five thousand dollars worth of retiring money, by catching me a snake with a coil of rope!" The sheriff looked puzzled. Old Pete leaned back and grinned. This was going to make a beaut of a tale, he thought!

THE END SL-4004

**STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP,
MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC.,
REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS
OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED
BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933,
AND JULY 2, 1946**

of All True Crime Cases Comics published Bimonthly at Meriden, Conn., for October 1, 1948.

State of New York)
County of New York) ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Robert Solomon, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of the All True Crime Cases Comics and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily, weekly, semiweekly or tri-weekly newspaper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946 (section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations), printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Leading Comic Corp., 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Editor, Stan Lee, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Managing Editor, Martin Goodman, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Business Manager, Robert Solomon, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

Leading Comic Corp., 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.; Martin Goodman, 350 5th Avenue, New York 1, N. Y.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

(Signed) ROBERT SOLOMON.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of September, 1948.

(SEAL) SYLVIA FIEGEN.
(My commission expires March 30, 1949.)

STAMP NEWS

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By KENT B. STILES

One of philately's amazing developments during the past decade is the spectacular increase in the interest which collectors have manifested in first-day sales of United States stamps and the demand for first-day covers. Evidence of this growing popularity is to be found in the following statistical information:

In 1938 appeared the series of 32 stamps each bearing a portrait of a President. At the first-day sales of those 32 stamps, 7,970,732 copies were purchased. First-day covers cancelled totalled 2,146,082.

In 1940 was issued the series of 35 each presenting a likeness of a past "Famous American" associated with literature, education, science, music or art. Copies sold on first days totalled 13,706,604. There were 5,089,851 covers cancelled.

Now let us look at the 1948 picture. Final official figures are not available as these lines are being written, but estimate which approach accuracy are possible. Thirty stamps were placed on the 1948 program. This is two fewer than in the 1938 "Presidential" series and five fewer than in the 1940 "Famous Americans" group. Total stamps sold at 30 first-day ceremonies in 1948: approximately 29,000,000. Covers cancelled, about 12,000,000.

This year's twenty-first stamp is a 3c red issued on Oct. 4 to mark the tercentenary of the establishing of voluntary firemen's organizations in America—in 1648 when Peter Stuyvesant (1592-1672) was Dutch Governor of New Amsterdam (predecessor of New York). The design shows a portrait Stuyvesant flanked by a hand-operated fire pump at left and a modern fire-engine at right.

The twenty-second is a 3c brown released on Oct. 15 to recall the settlement of today's Oklahoma by the Five Civilized Indian Tribes (Cherokee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Muscogee, Seminole) a century ago.

Twenty-third is a 3c issued on Oct. 27 for the semi-centennial of the formation of Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders in the Spanish-American War. Troop A was commanded by Capt. William Owen (Bucky) O'Neill, who was killed in the Battle of San Juan Hill in Cuba on July 1, 1898. The stamp's vignette pictures an equestrian statue of O'Neill in Phoenix, Ariz.

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HARRIS & CO., 111 Transit Bldg., BOSTON, MASS

Twenty-fifth is a 3c green, released on Oct. 29, in honor of Juliette Gordon Low (1860-1927), who in 1912 founded the Girl Guides—today's Girl Scouts of America. A portrait of Mrs. Low, with the Girl Scout emblem at right, features the design.

CRIME CAN'T WIN

DO YOU WANT TO BUY BROOKLYN BRIDGE? OR PERHAPS THE DEED TO 42ND ST. AND BROADWAY? HERE'S THE MAN WHO'LL SELL IT TO YOU... DUKE VINCENT LANDER WHO OFFERS YOU...

"MILLIONS *for* PEANUTS!"

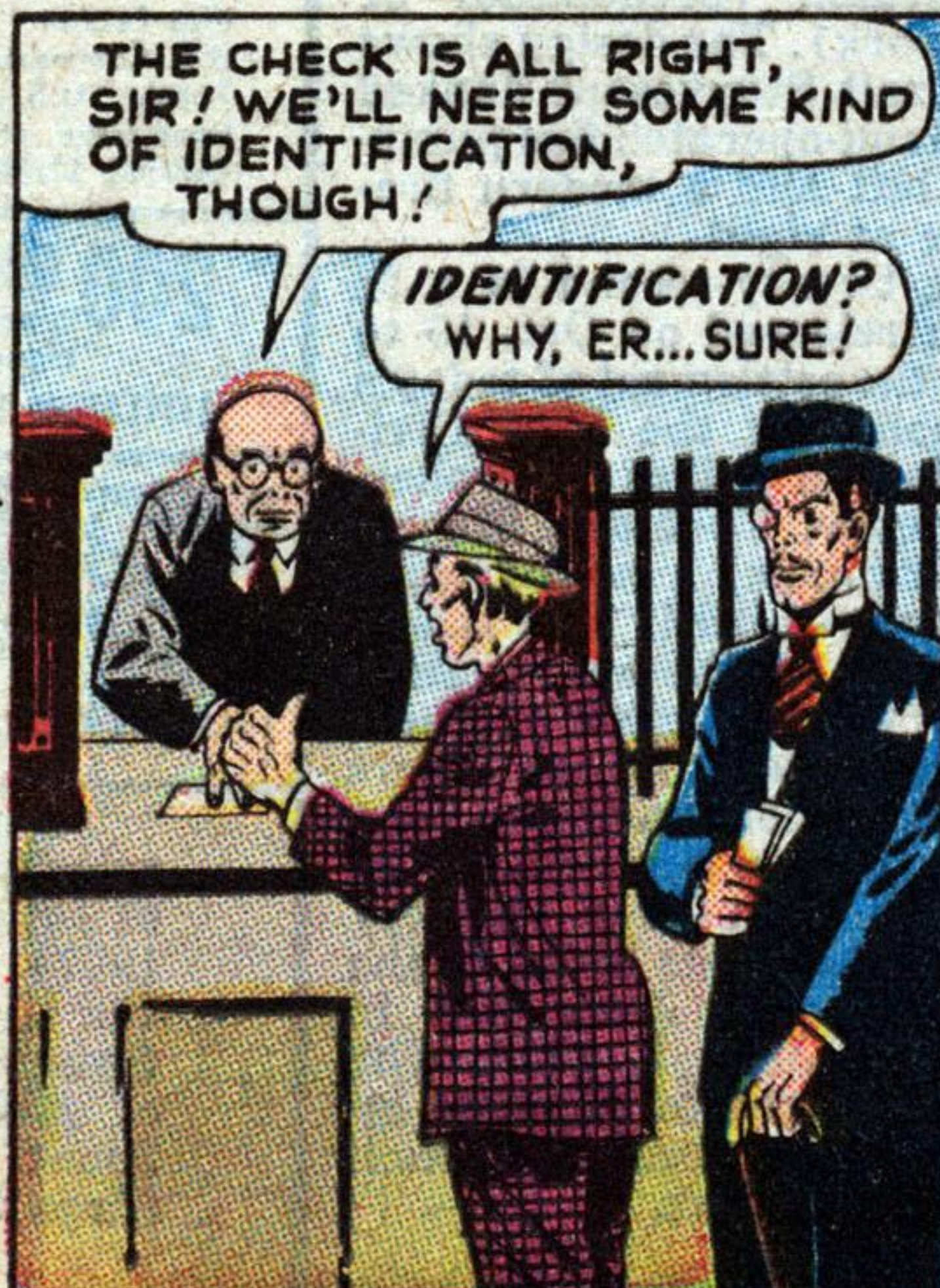


BASED
ON A
TRUE
STORY

STUDY THIS FACE... CLOSELY... CAREFULLY! IF YOU MEET ITS OWNER... RUN FOR COVER AND CALL THE POLICE AT ONCE! WAIT A MINUTE! YOU'RE SAFE! HE'S IN THE FEDERAL PEN NOW! BUT BEFORE HE WENT IN, HE TRIED TO PULL ONE OF THE MOST ASTOUNDING FRAUDS EVER DEVISED... WITH ITS CONSEQUENCES STILL MORE SHOCKING! THERE WAS ONLY ONE LIKE HIM... THANK GOODNESS!

5291

IN A LITTLE TOWN IN TEXAS, SPRING IS IN THE AIR AND A CERTAIN YOUNG MAN'S FANCY TURNS TO THOUGHTS OF... **CRIME!** IN THE NEXT SEENE YOU'LL SEE A BANK--JUST AN ORDINARY BANK-- FILLED WITH ORDINARY PEOPLE LIKE ANY OTHER BANK IN THE COUNTRY! SO WHAT, YOU SAY TO YOURSELF? WELL, WATCH CLOSELY AND SEE IF YOU CAN FIND SOMETHING WRONG HERE!



THE CHECK IS ALL RIGHT, SIR! WE'LL NEED SOME KIND OF IDENTIFICATION, THOUGH!

IDENTIFICATION? WHY, ER... SURE!

I'M AFRAID THIS ELECTRIC BILL WON'T DO, SIR! HAVEN'T YOU ANYTHING WITH YOUR *SIGNATURE* ON IT, LIKE A LICENSE OR SOMETHING?

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU GUYS, ANYWAY? DO YOU THINK THAT ELECTRIC BILL WOULD BE SENT TO ANYONE ELSE BUT *ME*?



ANY SIMILARITY BETWEEN ACTUAL PERSONS OR PLACES AND THOSE USED IN THIS STORY IS PURELY COINCIDENTAL

CRIME CAN'T WIN



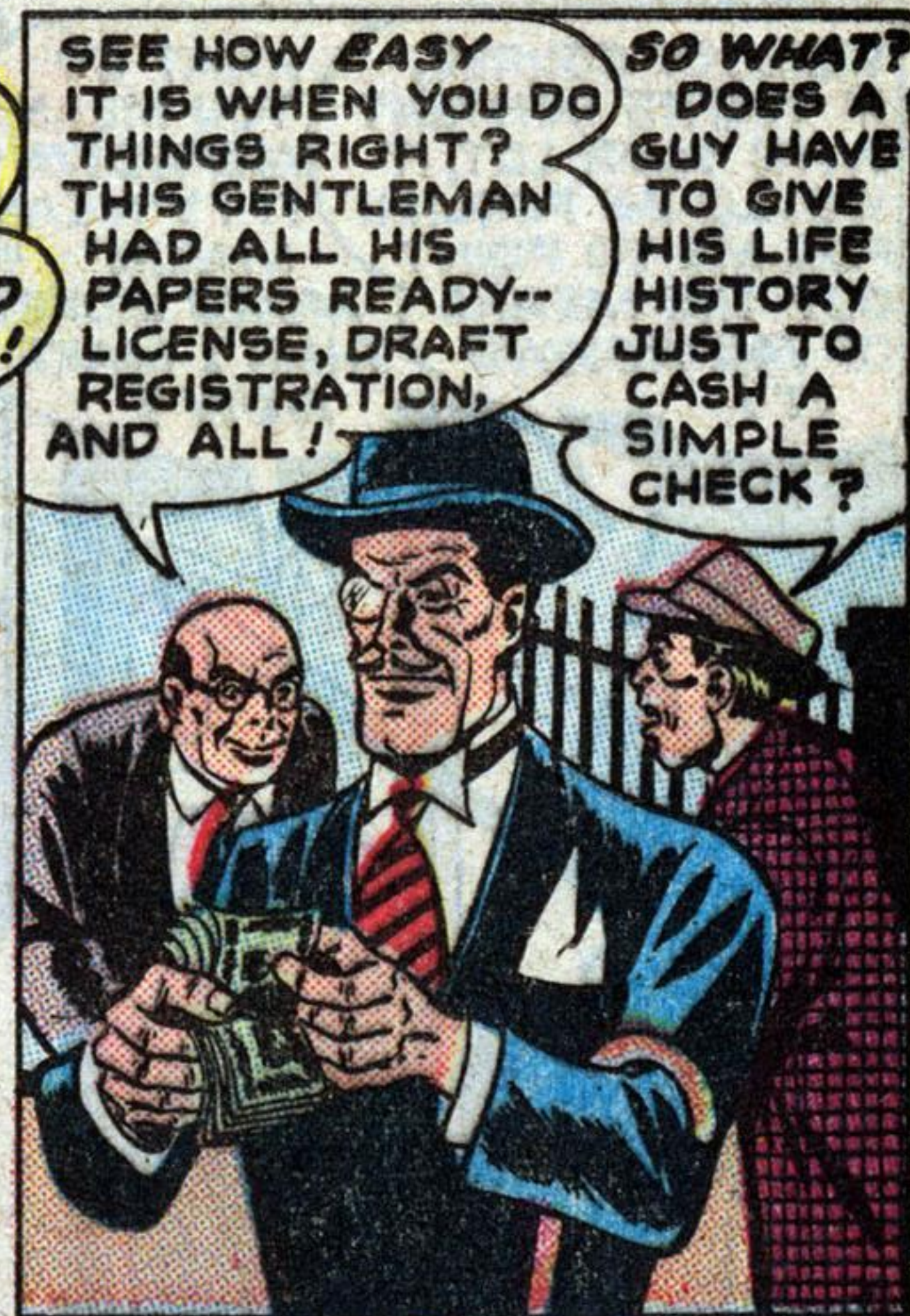
IDENTIFICATION DOESN'T MEAN AN ELECTRIC BILL, MISTER! I NEED SOMETHING MORE POSITIVE BEFORE I CAN CASH THAT CHECK!

YOU GUYS DON'T TRUST ANYONE! NEXT TIME I'LL BRING MY FINGERPRINTS!



THAT'S FINE, SIR! YOUR PAPERS ARE IN PERFECT ORDER! HOW DO YOU WANT THE CASH?

OH, ANY WAY AT ALL, AS LONG AS IT ADDS UP TO FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS!



SEE HOW EASY IT IS WHEN YOU DO THINGS RIGHT? THIS GENTLEMAN HAD ALL HIS PAPERS READY-- LICENSE, DRAFT REGISTRATION, AND ALL!

SO WHAT? DOES A GUY HAVE TO GIVE HIS LIFE HISTORY JUST TO CASH A SIMPLE CHECK?

YOU HAVE JUST WITNESSED A CLEVER SWINDLE! THE DISTINGUISHED-LOOKING GENTLEMAN WHO HAS BEEN HELD UP AS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF EFFICIENCY, IS NONE OTHER THAN THE COUNTRY'S MOST NOTORIOUS CONFIDENCE MAN, THE INFAMOUS ARCH-SWINDLER, "DUKE" VINCENT LANDER...



SOME PEOPLE WILL NEVER LEARN HOW TO PROPERLY IDENTIFY THEMSELVES! TSK! TSK!



FOR THE LAST TIME, NO! I'M NOT GOING TO CASH THAT CHECK WITHOUT PROPER IDENTIFICATION!

OKAY! OKAY! I'LL GO BACK TO SCHOOL AND GET A NOTE FROM TEACHER!

BUT, LIKE A FOOL AND HIS GOLD, THE "DUKE" AND HIS NEWLY ACQUIRED WEALTH ARE SOON TO BE PARTED...

ARRaigned ON FORGERY CHARGES, THE WILY "DUKE" IS PLACED IN A LOCAL JAIL TO AWAIT TRIAL...



OKAY, LANDER! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

WHA...? OH, DEAR! AND I HAD SUCH LOVELY PLANS FOR SPENDING THAT MONEY! WELL, LET'S GET IT OVER WITH! I'M ANXIOUS TO LEAVE TOWN!



SHERIFF, I'M SURPRISED TO SEE A MAN OF YOUR INTELLIGENCE AND ABILITY WASTING HIS TIME IN SUCH A DEGRADING CAPACITY, WHILE A FORTUNE AWAITS HIM IN THE BUSINESS WORLD!

HUH? RECKON I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE A-TALKIN' ABOUT, LANDER! I'M SITTING RIGHT PURTY ON THIS JOB! I'VE GOT NO KICKS COMIN'!

FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN



WELL, OF COURSE, IF YOU'RE CONTENT WITH YOUR LOT, IT WOULD BE FOOLISH FOR ME TO POINT OUT THE MEANS OF IMPROVING IT!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, IMPROVIN' IT? Y'MEAN MAKIN' MORE MONEY THAN I MAKE NOW?

PRECISELY! ACCUMULATING A FORTUNE IS MERELY A MATTER OF SOUND JUDGMENT AND GOOD ADVICE! HOWEVER, I'M SURE YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED!

W-WELL, I DUNNO! MAYBE I AM, AN MAYBE I'M NOT! IT ALL DEPENDS!

WITH THE CUNNING OF A FOY, LANDER DANGLES THE BAIT BEFORE THE MONEY-HUNGRY SHERIFF!

SHERIFF, I WONDER IF I CAN IMPOSE UPON YOUR KINDNESS AND MAKE A LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALL...

W-WELL, I DUNNO! IT'S AGIN' REGULATIONS-- BUT I CAN'T SEE WHERE IT'LL DO ANY HARM!

I'LL PAY FOR THE CALL, OF COURSE!



KEEP THAT GUN TRAINED ON ME, SHERIFF! IF ANYBODY SHOULD HAPPEN TO DROP IN, IT WON'T LOOK TOO BAD!

GO AHEAD AND CALL, LANDER! I'M A-WATCHIN' YOU!

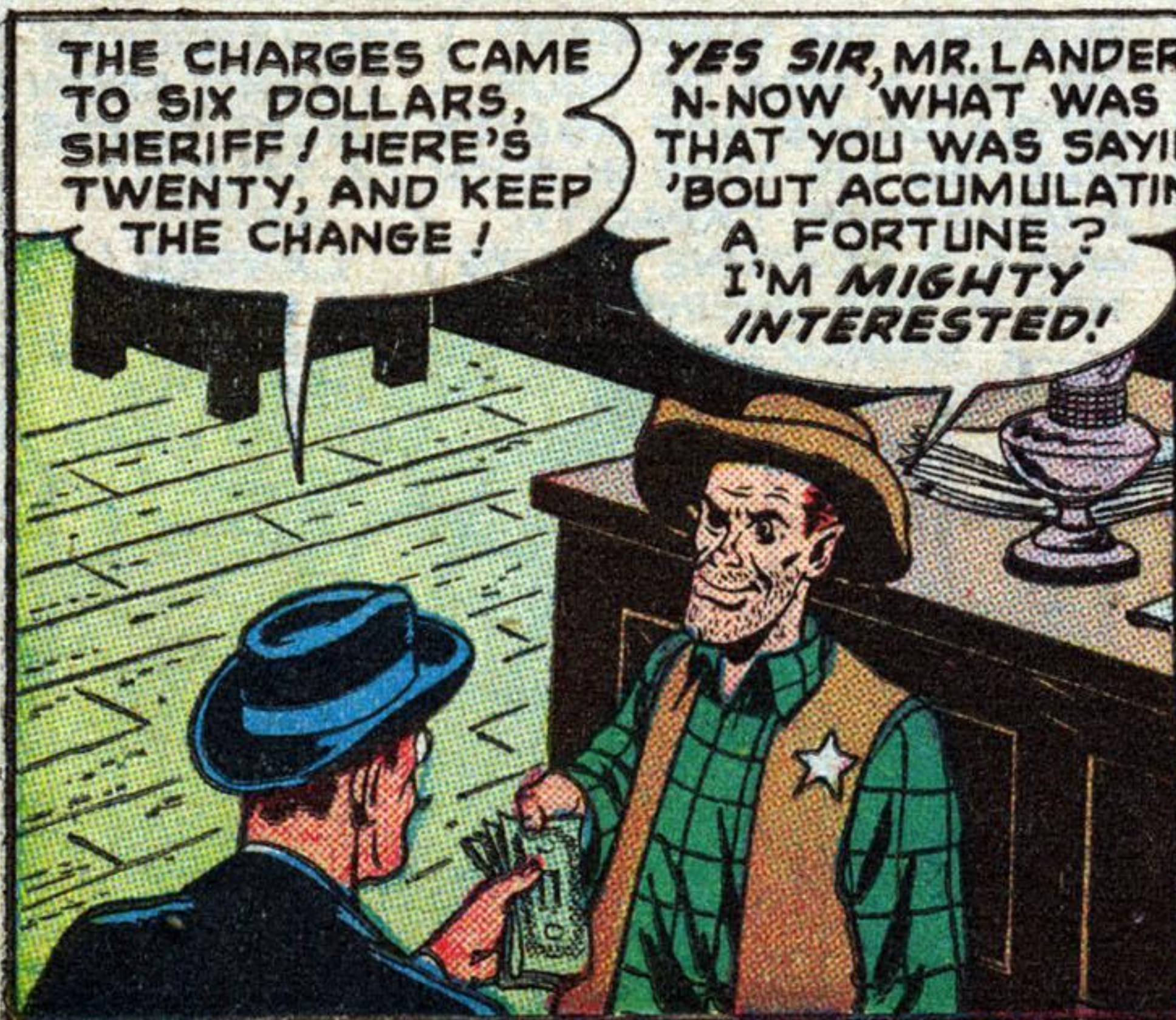
UNOBSERVED BY THE SHERIFF, LANDER'S FINGER PRESSES DOWN THE HOOK ON THE TELEPHONE AS HE MAKES A PHONY LONG DISTANCE CALL TO WALL STREET...

HELLO, FARNSWORTH? YES, THIS IS LANDER! LOOK, OLD MAN, I'M IN A BIT OF A SPOT! SETTLE FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN MY PERSONAL ACCOUNT!

(GULP!)



WITH ALL THE RESPECT DUE SUCH AN ILLUSTRIOUS CAPTAIN OF INDUSTRY, THE OVERAWED SHERIFF'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS LANDER CHANGES...

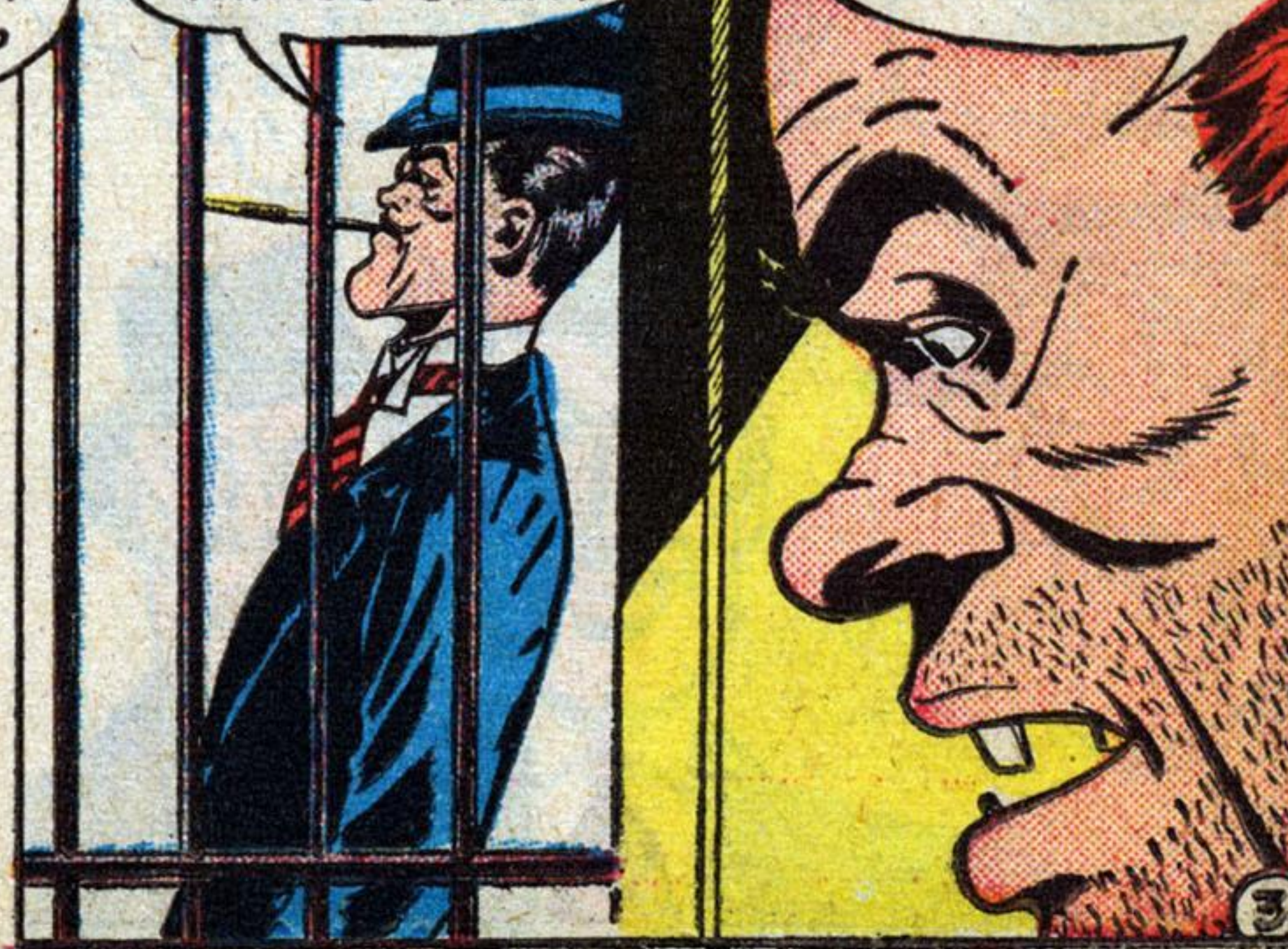


THE CHARGES CAME TO SIX DOLLARS, SHERIFF! HERE'S TWENTY, AND KEEP THE CHANGE!

YES SIR, MR. LANDER! N-NOW WHAT WAS THAT YOU WAS SAYIN' 'BOUT ACCUMULATIN' A FORTUNE? I'M MIGHTY INTERESTED!

THIS IS HARDLY THE PLACE TO DISCUSS FINANCES, SHERIFF! MEET ME AT MY HOTEL TOMORROW EVENING, AND WE'LL TALK THINGS OVER!

H-HOTEL? B-BUT, YOU'RE A-STANDIN' TRIAL TOMORROW! WE CAN'T MEET IF Y-YOU'RE CONVICTED!



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

NONSENSE, SHERIFF! I'M HERE SIMPLY BECAUSE CERTAIN POLITICIANS WERE ENRAGED WHEN I WOULDN'T LET THEM IN ON A BIG DEAL! HOWEVER, THEY'LL COME AROUND TO MY WAY OF THINKING AT THE TRIAL!

YOU MUST HAVE A POWERFUL LOT OF INFLUENCE, MR. LANDER!

AS USUAL, THE FOLLOWING DAY LANDER WAS RELEASED FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE, AND LATER IN THE EVENING...

GREETINGS, SHERIFF! SIT DOWN AND MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME! WHAT'LL IT BE-- BOURBON OR SCOTCH?

NOTHIN', MR. LANDER! I JUST CAME AROUND TO HAVE A LITTLE TALK! Y'KNOW, 'BOUT THAT BUSINESS WE WERE A-TALKIN' ABOUT!



WITHIN AN HOUR, UNDER THE CAREFUL QUESTIONING OF THE WILY LANDER, THE SHERIFF WAS POURING OUT A TALE OF WOE AND GRIEVANCE!

AN' THAT'S IT, LANDER! I'VE BEEN WORKIN' LIKE A COYOTE FOR TWENTY YEARS AN' I'M STILL NO FURTHER THAN I WAS WHEN I STARTED!

TWENTY YEARS OF TOIL AND PUBLIC SERVICE IN VAIN! TSK! TSK! WELL, SHERIFF, I'VE DECIDED TO HELP YOU TO FAME AND RICHES-- BUT FIRST, HAVE YOU ANY CAPITAL TO START WITH?

WELL, I'VE GOT THE MORTGAGE ON MY HOUSE AN' A FEW HUNDRED SAVED UP! BUT OUTSIDE OF THAT-- I'VE GOT NOTHIN'!

SURELY IN YOUR POSITION AS SHERIFF, THE TOWN MUST HAVE ENTRUSTED CERTAIN PAPERS AND, ER... BONDS TO YOU... HMM?

WELL, I'VE GOT AROUND TEN THOUSAND IN MY SAFE! BUT WAIT A MINUTE, LANDER! YOU'RE NOT FIGGERIN' ON ME...

MY DEAR SHERIFF! HOW COULD YOU EVEN SUSPECT ME OF SUCH A THOUGHT? HONESTY IS ONE THING I INSIST UPON WITH MY ASSOCIATES! I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING, SHERIFF!

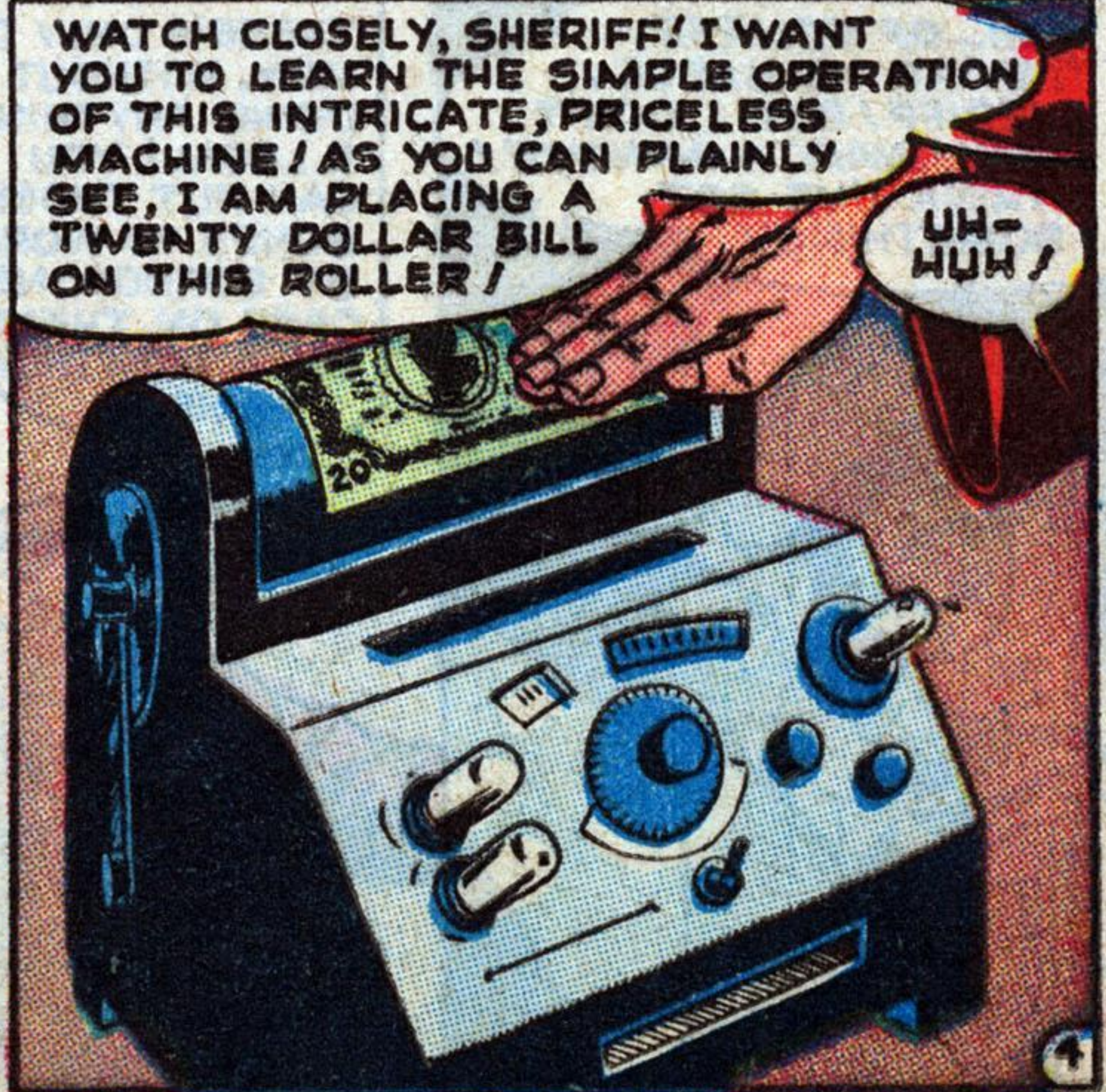


OF COURSE, SHERIFF, YOU UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT I AM ABOUT TO DEMONSTRATE MUST REMAIN IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE BETWEEN US!

WHY, S-SURE, MR. LANDER! SURE!

WATCH CLOSELY, SHERIFF! I WANT YOU TO LEARN THE SIMPLE OPERATION OF THIS INTRICATE, PRICELESS MACHINE! AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE, I AM PLACING A TWENTY DOLLAR BILL ON THIS ROLLER!

UH-HUH!



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN



AND AS LANDER PRESSED A BUTTON, WHEELS BEGAN TO SPIN, GAUGES SHUDDERED, MACHINERY HUMMED, AND THE GAWKING SHERIFF WAS HELD UNDER A HYPNOTIC SPELL!



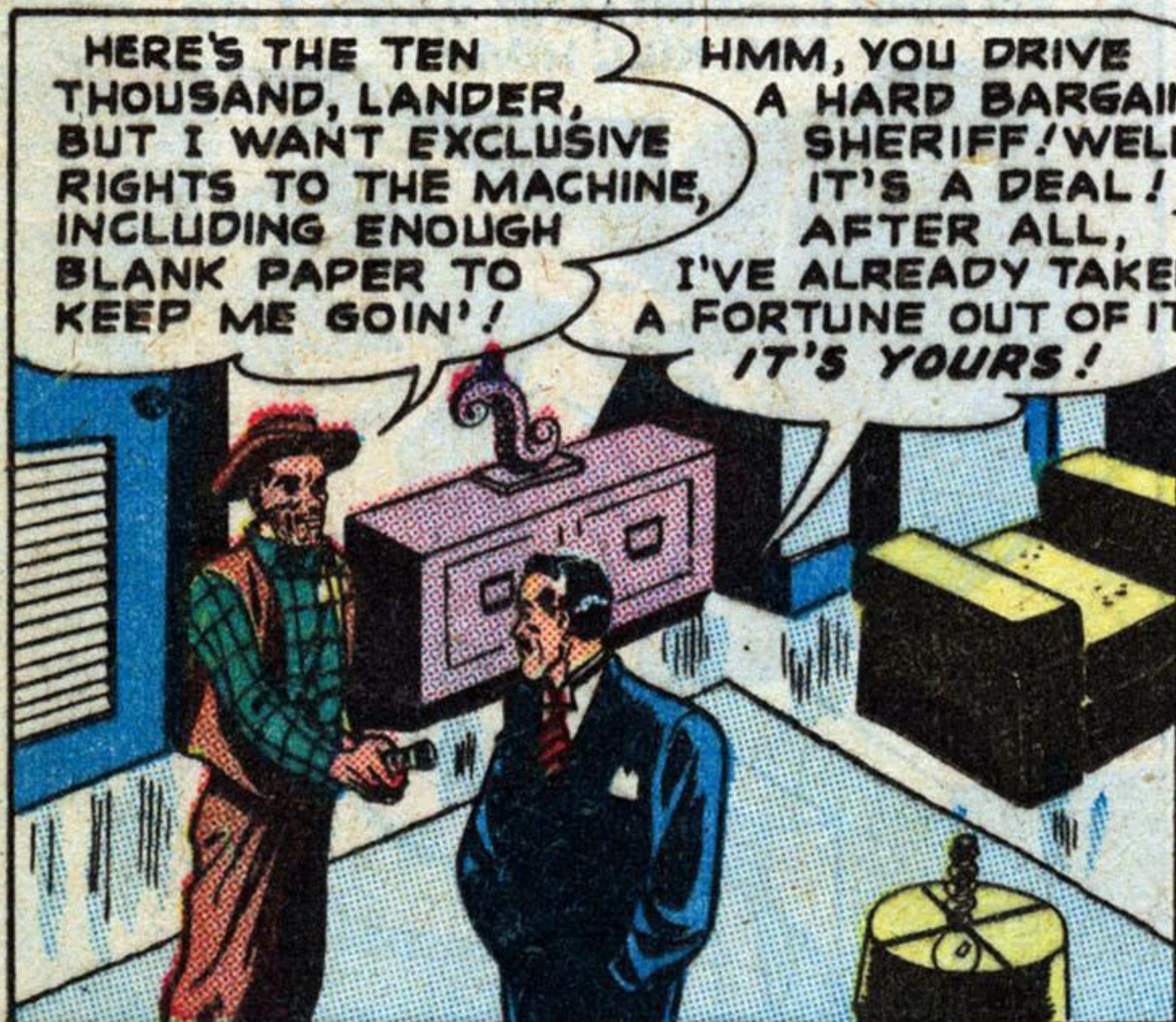
COMPLETELY TAKEN IN BY THE AMAZING MIRACLE, THE GULLIBLE SHERIFF WAS UNAWARE THAT HE WAS HOLDING GENUINE TWENTY-DOLLAR BILLS!



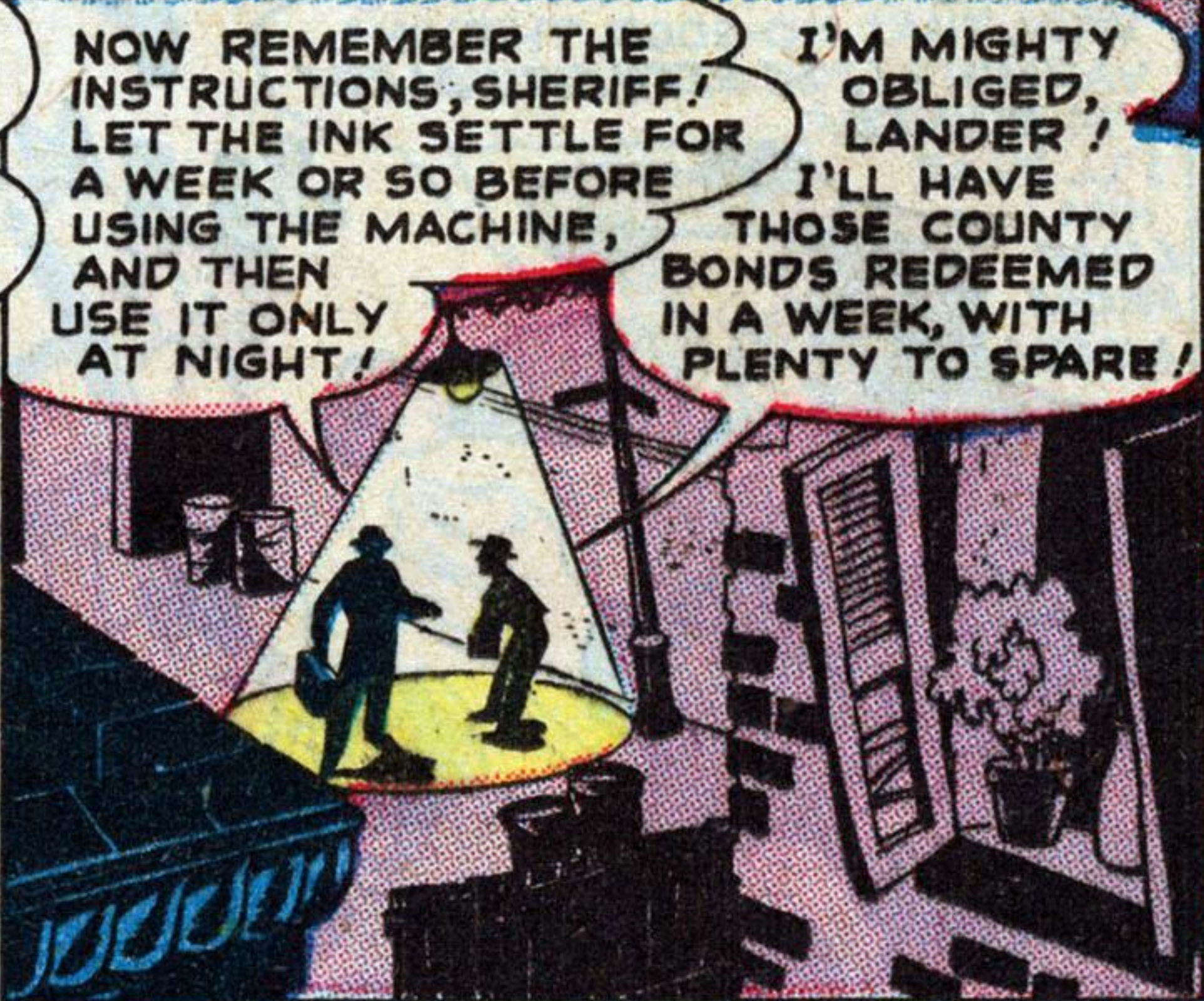
FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

AT NOON THE FOLLOWING DAY, WITH THE PROCEEDS OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS' WORTH OF CASHED BONDS IN HIS POCKETS...



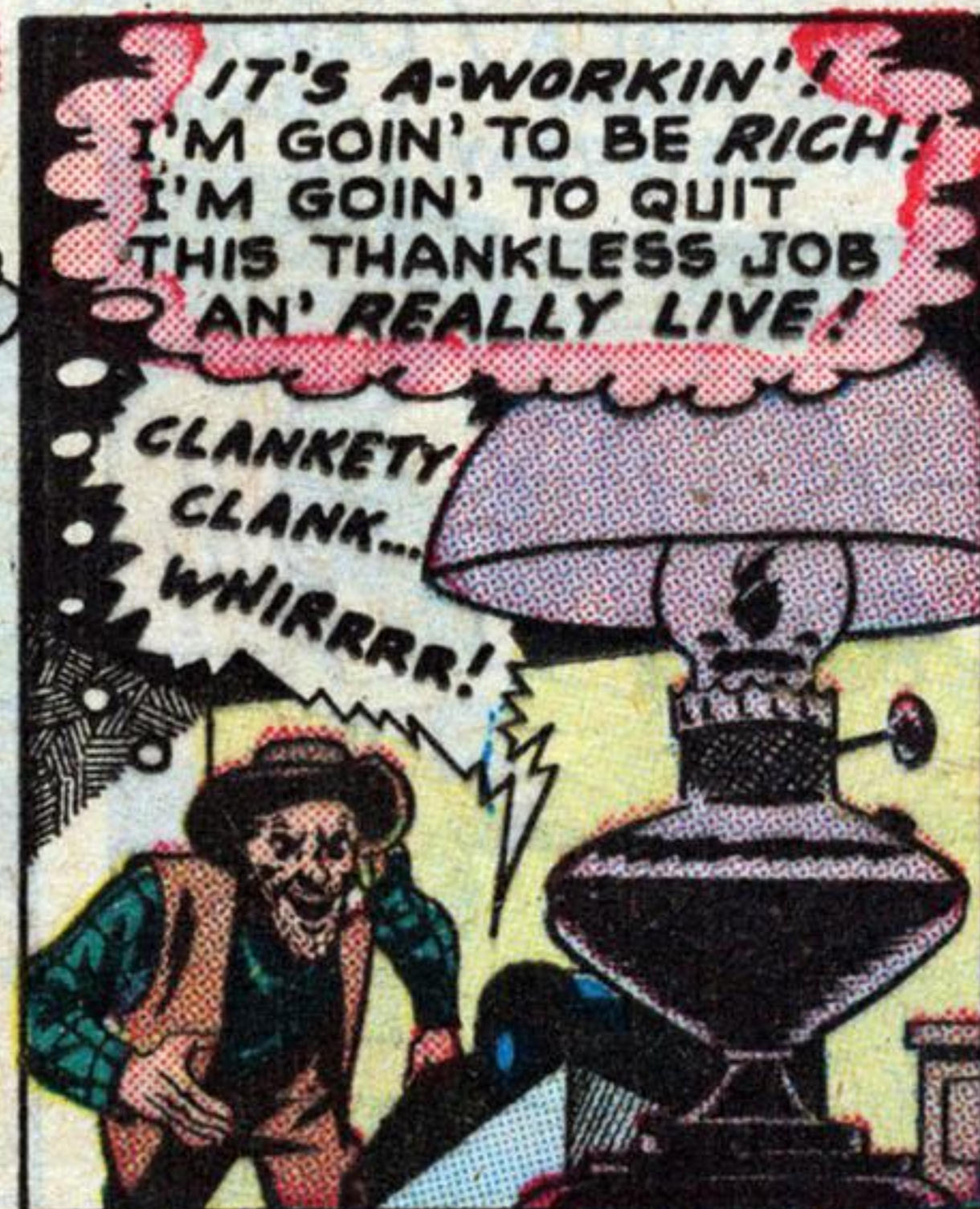
WITH VISIONS OF UNTOLD WEALTH CROWDING ALL REASON OUT OF HIS MIND, THE GREEDY SHERIFF TOOK POSSESSION OF HIS JUNIOR MINT...



AND WHILE THE CAGEY LANDER HEADED FOR POINTS UNKNOWN, THE DUPED SHERIFF WAITED OUT THE WEEK IN TENSE ANTICIPATION OF THE UNTOLD WEALTH WHICH WOULD SOON BE HIS...



TENSE WITH GREED AND BREATHLESS SUSPENSE, THE SHERIFF PRESSED THE BUTTON AND WAITED FOR THE FLOW OF EXPECTED RICHES...



BUT NOTHING HAPPENED! A SLOW SURGE OF NAUSEA AND WEAKNESS CRAWLED INTO THE SHERIFF'S STOMACH AND CHILLED HIS HEART...



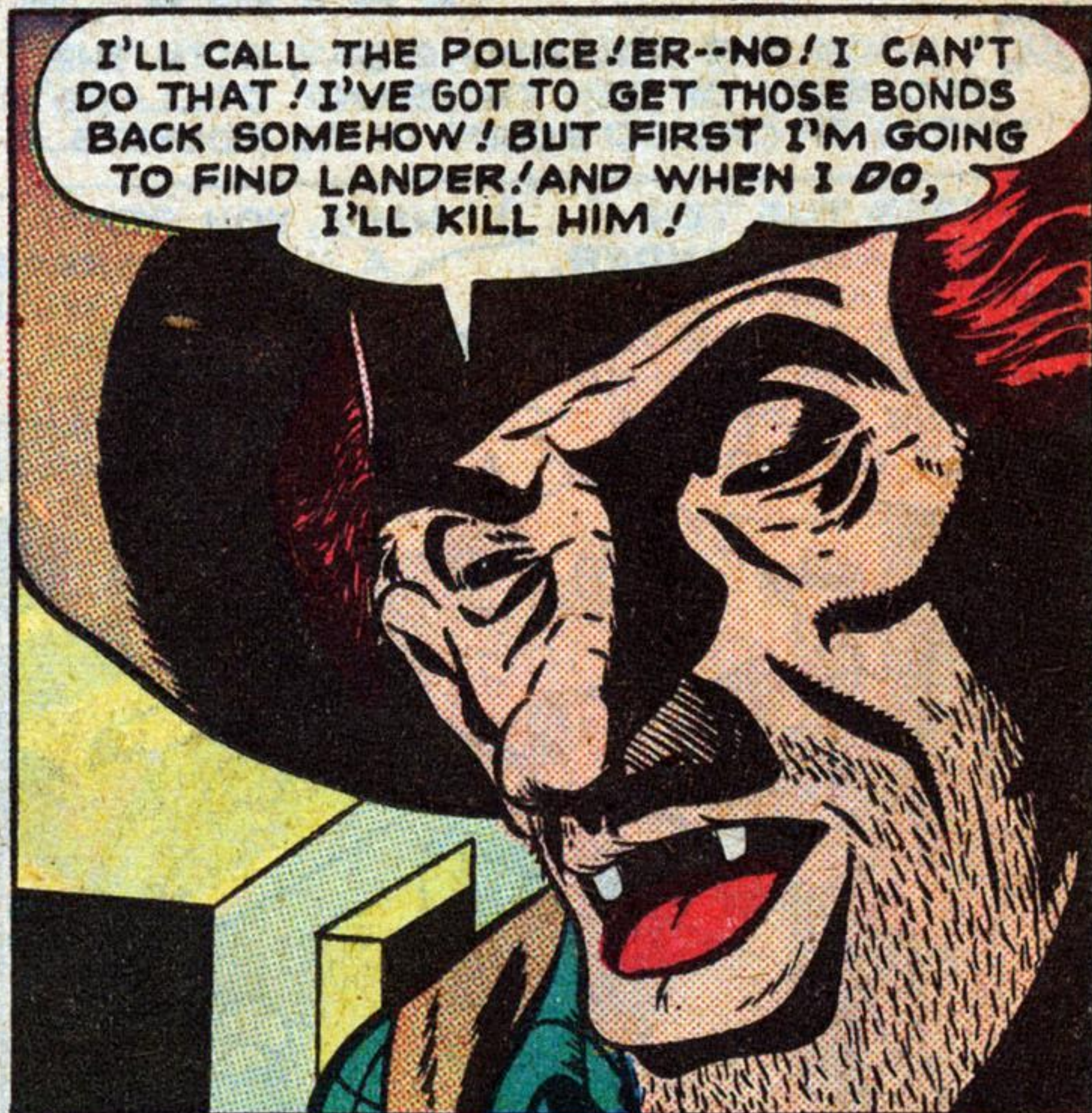
IN A SEMI-STUPOR, THE SHERIFF DELVED INTO THE WORTHLESS MACHINE, LOOKING FOR THE CAUSE OF THE FAILURE...



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

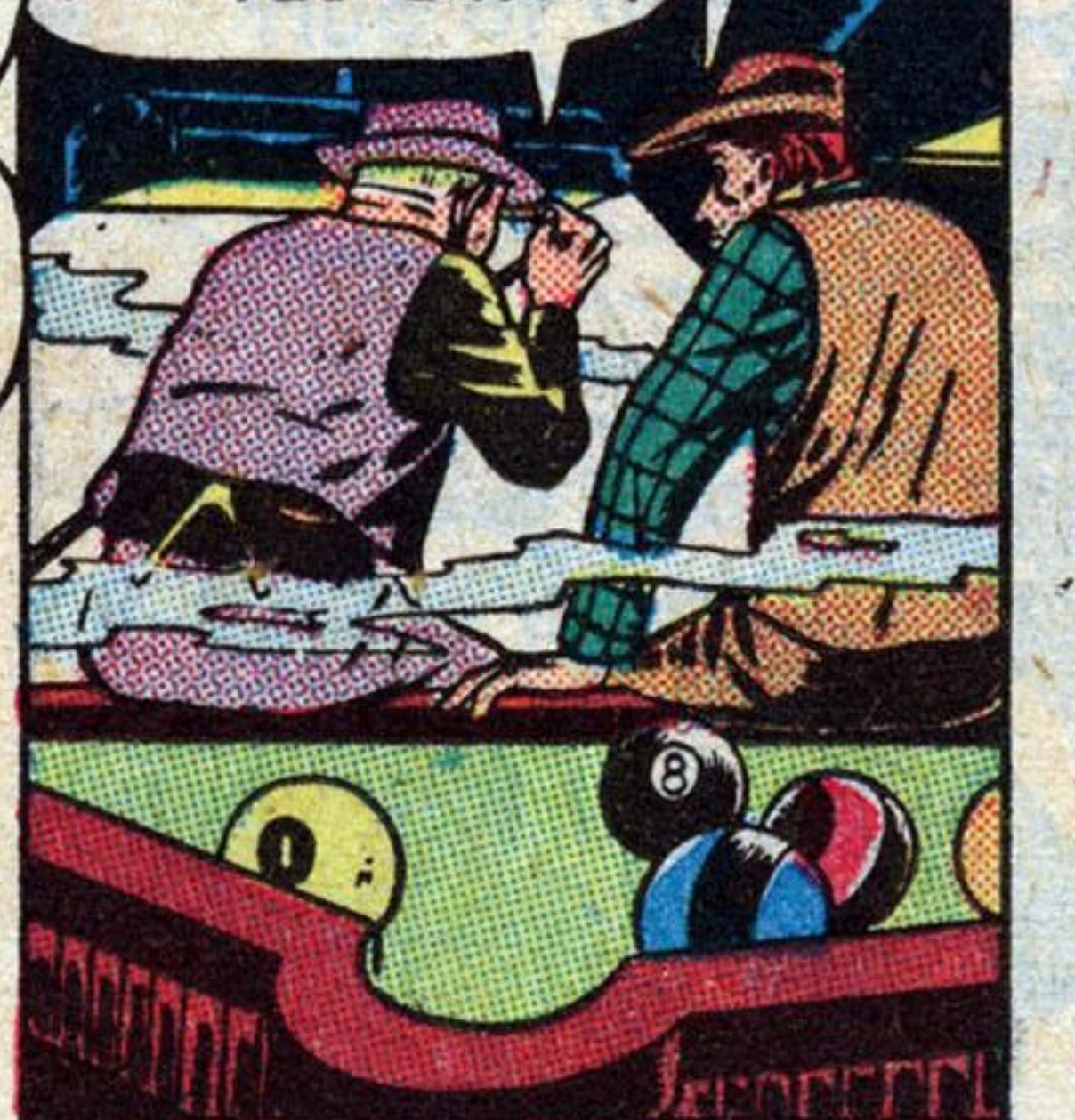
AND BITTER DISBELIEF GAVE WAY TO SCALDING RAGE AS THE FULL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SWINDLE DAWNED ON THE DUPED SHERIFF...



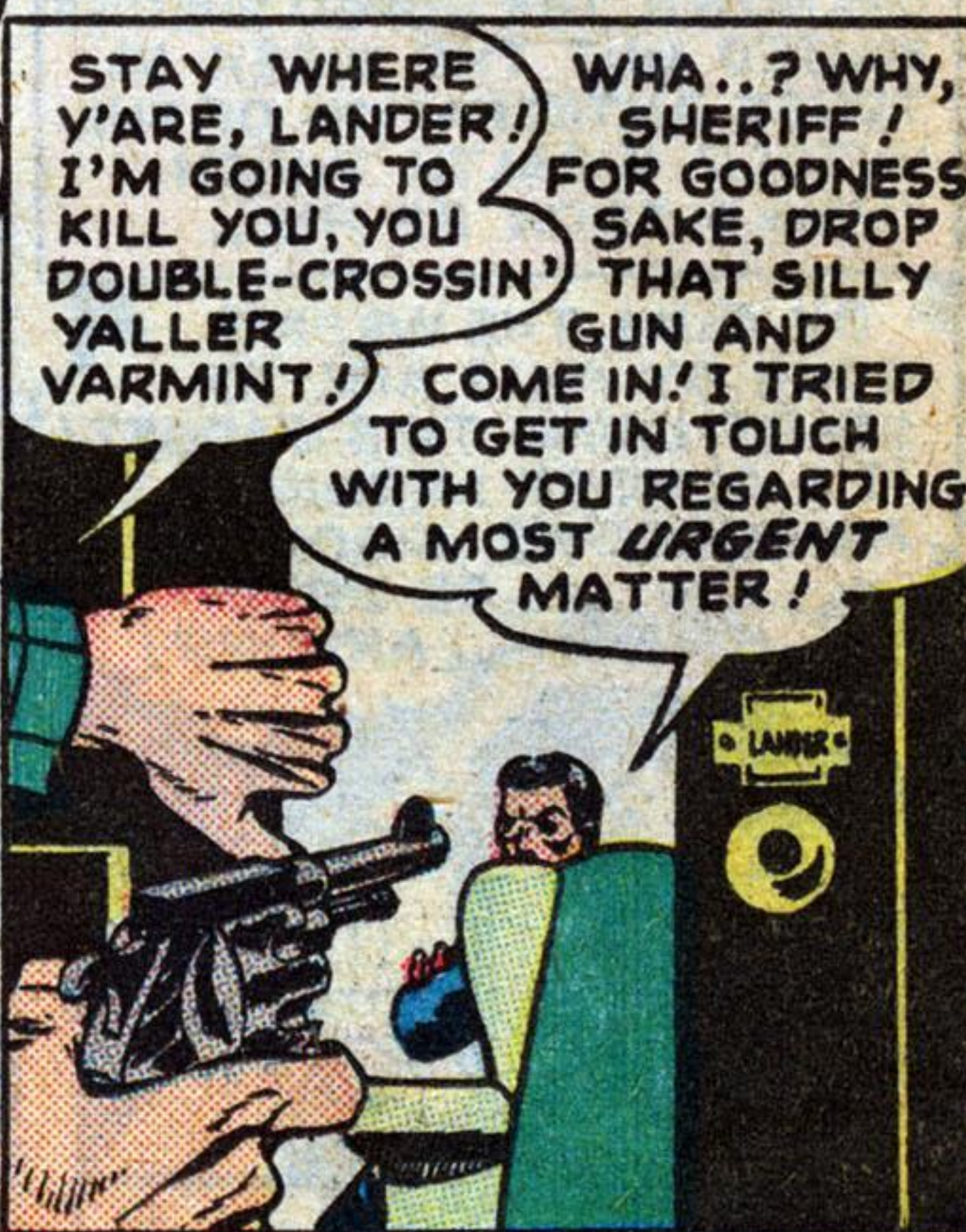
WITH MURDER IN HIS HEART, THE SHERIFF GOT A TWO-WEEK LEAVE OF ABSENCE AND BEGAN AN ALMOST HOPELESS SEARCH FOR LANDER THAT LURED HIM OUT OF THE STATE...



SURE THING, PAL! THE "DUKE" IS TAKIN' IT EASY IN THE NETHERLAND HOTEL IN NEW YORK! GOT A CARD FROM HIM YESTERDAY!



AT 8:00 P.M. THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, IN THE NETHERLAND HOTEL...



TAKEN ABACK BY THIS HEARTY WELCOME, THE SHERIFF BEGAN TO SWALLOW STILL ANOTHER LINE OF UNMISTAKABLE FRAUD...



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

AND SURPRISE FOLLOWED SURPRISE IN RAPID SUCCESSION...

I KNOW THE ANXIETY YOU MUST HAVE FELT, SHERIFF! AND I WISH TO MAKE THINGS SQUARE WITH YOU! I *INSIST* THAT YOU ACCEPT TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS IN CASH FOR THE MONEY YOU GAVE ME, AND YOUR WASTED TIME, BESIDES!

B-BUT... ER... I CAN'T DO THAT, LANDER! YOU'VE BEEN MORE THAN SQUARE WITH ME!

I WON'T HEAR ANOTHER WORD, SHERIFF! YOU CAN KEEP THE MACHINE AS A MEMENTO OF OUR FRIENDSHIP!

LANDER, YOU'RE A **SQUARE SHOOTER!** I'LL REDEEM THOSE BONDS WITH THIS CASH AND GET MYSELF SET AGAIN! THANKS, PARDNER!

BUT ALAS AND ALACK, THE GRACIOUS GIFT FROM LANDER PROVED TO BE NOTHING MORE THAN WORTHLESS COUNTERFEIT MONEY! AND THE NOOSE OF THE LAW QUICKLY DREW ABOUT THE GREEDY SHERIFF'S NECK!

EVERY BILL IS COUNTERFEIT, SHERIFF!

COUNTERFEIT? B-BUT THEY C-CAN'T BE!

OKAY, SHERIFF! YOU'LL HAVE TO COME ALONG WITH ME! THIS IS A SERIOUS MATTER!

WITH HIS PLANS FOR RICHES TUMBLING DOWN ON HIS HEAD IN WILD CONFUSION, THE HAPLESS SHERIFF POURED OUT A FANTASTIC TALE OF WOE!

I SWEAR I ONLY BORROWED THOSE BONDS! LANDER MADE ME DO IT! HE SOLD ME THAT PHONY MACHINE AND THEN PAID ME BACK WITH THAT **FAKE MONEY!**

LANDER, EH? THIS TIME WE'VE REALLY GOT THAT CHISELER WITH THE GOODS! I'LL NOTIFY THE F.B.I. AT ONCE!

WHILE AT AN EASTERN PORT, THE WILY DUKE WAS ABOUT TO EMBARK ON A TRIP TO THE RIVIERA AND FREEDOM!

THIS IS **ONE** BOAT YOU'RE GOING TO MISS, LANDER! THE F.B.I. WOULD LIKE A DEMONSTRATION OF THAT LITTLE MONEY-MAKING MACHINE!

WHA...? WHY, ER... WITH PLEASURE, GENTLEMEN! I'M **ALWAYS** WILLING TO HELP A FELLOW GET AHEAD... SHALL WE GO?

NOT EVEN A FIFTEEN-YEAR SENTENCE IN A FEDERAL PENITENTIARY FOR LANDER AND FOUR YEARS FOR THE SHERIFF COULD STILL THE WILY SWINDLER'S YEN FOR CHISELING!

TAKE IT EASY, LANDER! **FOURTEEN MORE YEARS** OF DIGGING TO GO! WHAT'S THE RUSH?

I'VE ASSAYED SAMPLES OF THIS ROCK AND AM **CONVINCED** THERE ARE VALUABLE DEPOSITS OF GOLD ORE IN IT! I MAY CONSIDER TAKING IN A PARTNER, IN STRICT CONFIDENCE. OF COURSE! HOW ABOUT IT, OFFICER?

THE END

FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

ANNIE OAKLEY
 BLACKSTONE THE MAGICIAN
 BLONDE PHANTOM
 COMPLETE MYSTERY STORIES
 CRIMEFIGHTERS ALWAYS WIN
 GEORGIE
 IDEAL COMICS
 JOKER COMICS
 JUSTICE
 LAWBREAKERS ALWAYS LOSE
 MARGIE
 MARVEL MYSTERY COMICS
 MILLIE THE MODEL
 NAMORA
 NELLIE THE NURSE
 PATSY WALKER
 SUB-MARINER
 SUN GIRL
 TEEN COMICS
 TESSIE THE TYPIST
 TEX MORGAN
 TWO-GUN KID
 WILD WESTERN
 WILLIE

BLUE-YELLOW UNIT

ALL-TRUE CRIME CASES
 ALL WINNERS
 BLAZE CARSON
 CAPTAIN AMERICA
 CINDY
 COMEDY COMICS
 CRIME EXPOSED
 FRANKIE
 GAY COMICS
 HEDY DE VINE
 HUMAN TORCH
 JEANIE
 JUNIOR MISS
 KID COLT
 KRAZY KOMICS
 LANA
 MITZI
 MY ROMANCE
 OSCAR
 POWERHOUSE PEPPER
 RUSTY
 SUPER RABBIT
 TEX TAYLOR
 THE WITNESS
 VENUS
 WACKY DUCK

MARVEL

COMIC GROUP

HI FRIENDS:

Lately there has been quite a debate about comics raging in the pages of the Saturday Review of Literature, one of America's most respected magazines. In an article, a Dr. Wertham discussed the problem of juvenile delinquency in America today, and pinned the blame for some of these cases on comic magazines, simply because many of the delinquent youngsters had read comics.

93% of all young people (from 8 to 16 years of age) read comics. Naturally a few young people get into some kind of trouble . . . so do a lot of older ones . . . and of course many of the kids who get into trouble do read comics. But what the article does not state is the fact that 93% of the boys and girls who get into *no trouble at all* also read comics.

Let us quote a letter from David Pace Wigransky, a 14 year old reader of comics, published in the July 24th issue of the Saturday Review:

" . . . In none of these cases was it proved that reading comic books was the cause of the delinquency. A good many of the delinquents mentioned happened to be readers of comic magazines, just as are 69,999,975 perfectly healthy, happy, normal American boys and girls, men and women, who also read comics.

" . . . It appears that his [Dr. Wertham's] \$64 question to a child being psychoanalyzed is, 'Do you read COMIC BOOKS, my little man?' Of course the juvenile delinquent, *being a normal child in at least that way*, will answer 'Yes'."

In other words, the case is just as we stated it above. Since almost all kids of any kind read comics, naturally some of the delinquents read comics too. But since the same percentage holds true among the millions of youngsters who have committed *no offense at all*, why not give the comics credit for the good influence they have been on these millions of healthy, normal kids, instead of just blaming them for our handful of delinquents?

Once again let us remind you to show our magazines, or any of the other *good* comics, to people who criticize this form of entertainment. Show those people that your favorite magazines are not harmful. Let them see Dr. Thompson's endorsement on the first page of every one of our magazines, and prove to one and all that the comics you buy and read are *good for you*.

THE EDITORS
 MARVEL COMIC GROUP

CRIME CAN'T WIN "DEATH JOINS THE REVELERS!"

FROM THE SCREAMING HEADLINES OF YESTERDAY'S PAPERS COMES THIS STRANGE TALE OF MURDER AT THE MARDI GRAS! AS STARTLING TODAY AS IT WAS THE DAY IT HAPPENED MORE THAN FIFTEEN YEARS AGO IN NEW ORLEANS! THIS CASE OF JEALOUSY, GREED AND VIOLENCE AMIDST GAIETY, WILL BE REMEMBERED AS LONG AS THE PROUD NAME OF DE VAUDREVIL EXISTS IN NEW ORLEANS!

BASED
ON A
TRUE
STORY

ON THE PATIO OF HIS LUXURIOUS CHATEAU IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, THE MARQUIS DE VAUDREVIL SCOLDED AN OLD FRIEND...

YOUR DAY DREAMING HAS COST YOU YOUR QUEEN, ROBERT!

AH, LOUIS! IT'S WORTH THE LOSS OF MY CHESS QUEEN. IF YOUR GRANDSON, PIERRE, WILL ASK MY DAUGHTER, *ISABELLA*, TO BE HIS QUEEN AT THE MARDI GRAS...AND FOR LIFE!

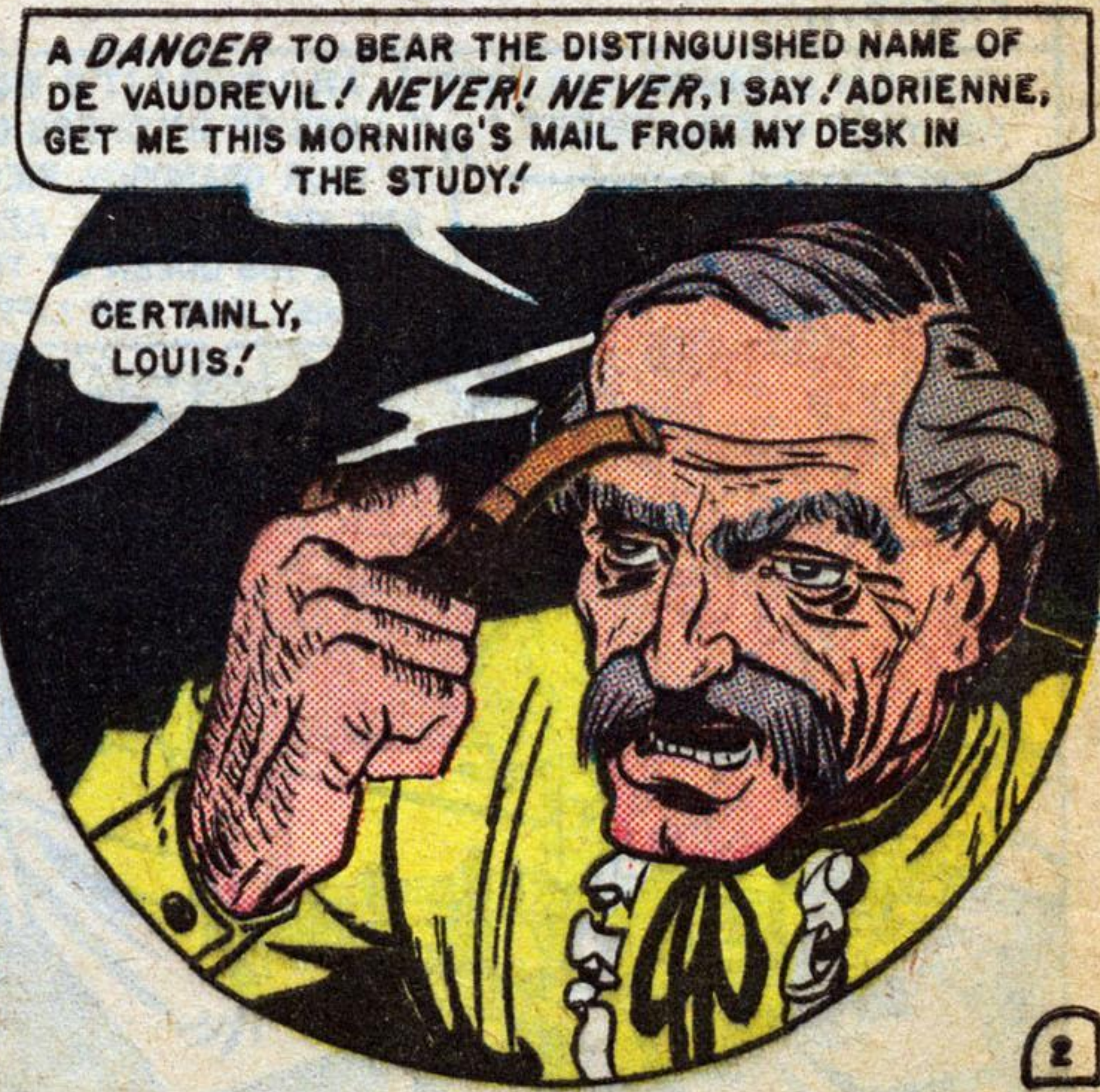
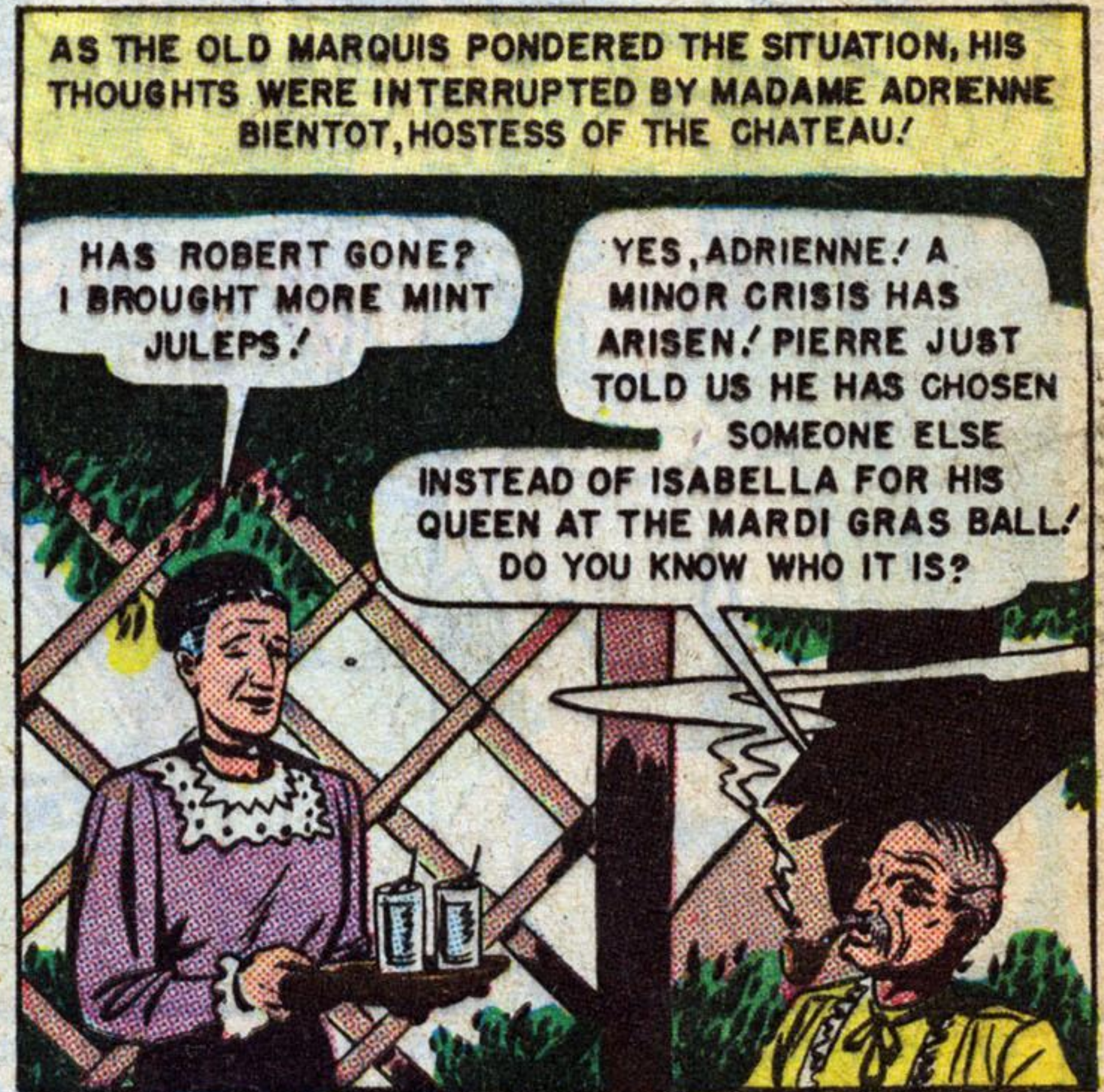
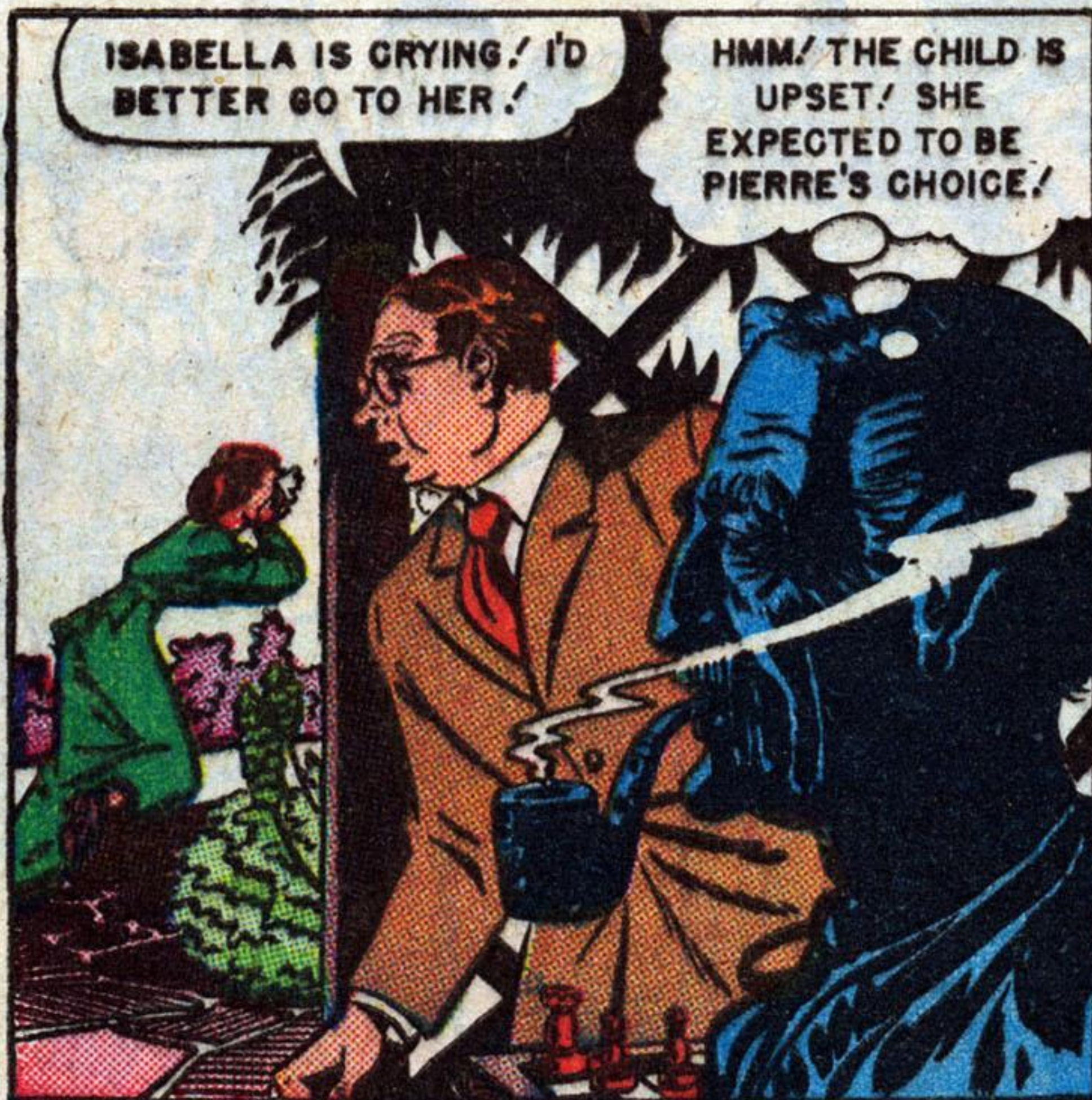
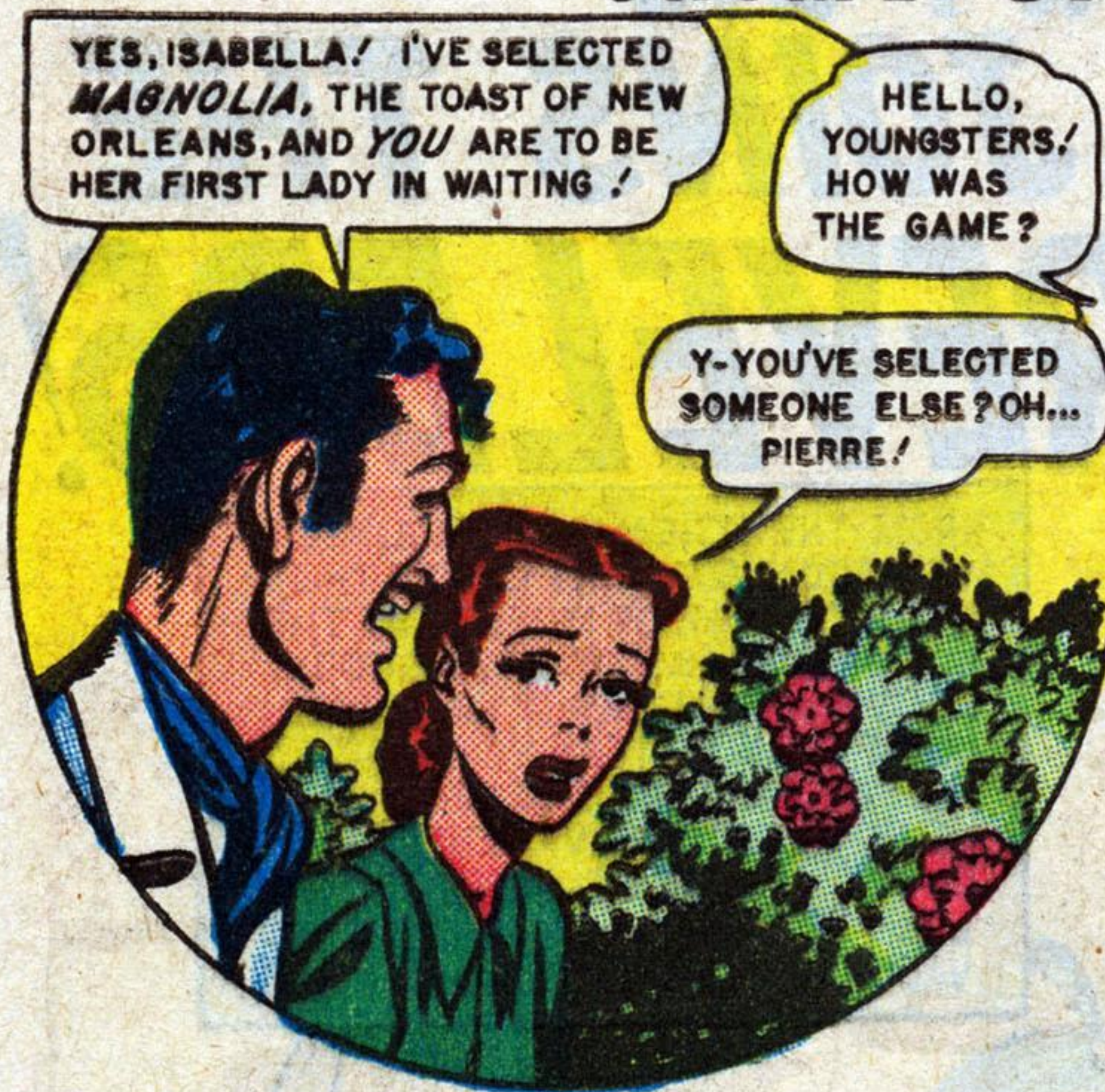
THE OBJECTS OF ROBERT VILLE'S MEDITATION, ISABELLA AND PIERRE, COMPLETED THEIR GAME OF TENNIS!

GOOD GAME, ISABELLA!

BEFORE YOU GO, PIERRE... ABOUT THE MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL/ HAVE YOU SELECTED YOUR QUEEN FOR THE CARNIVAL BALL?



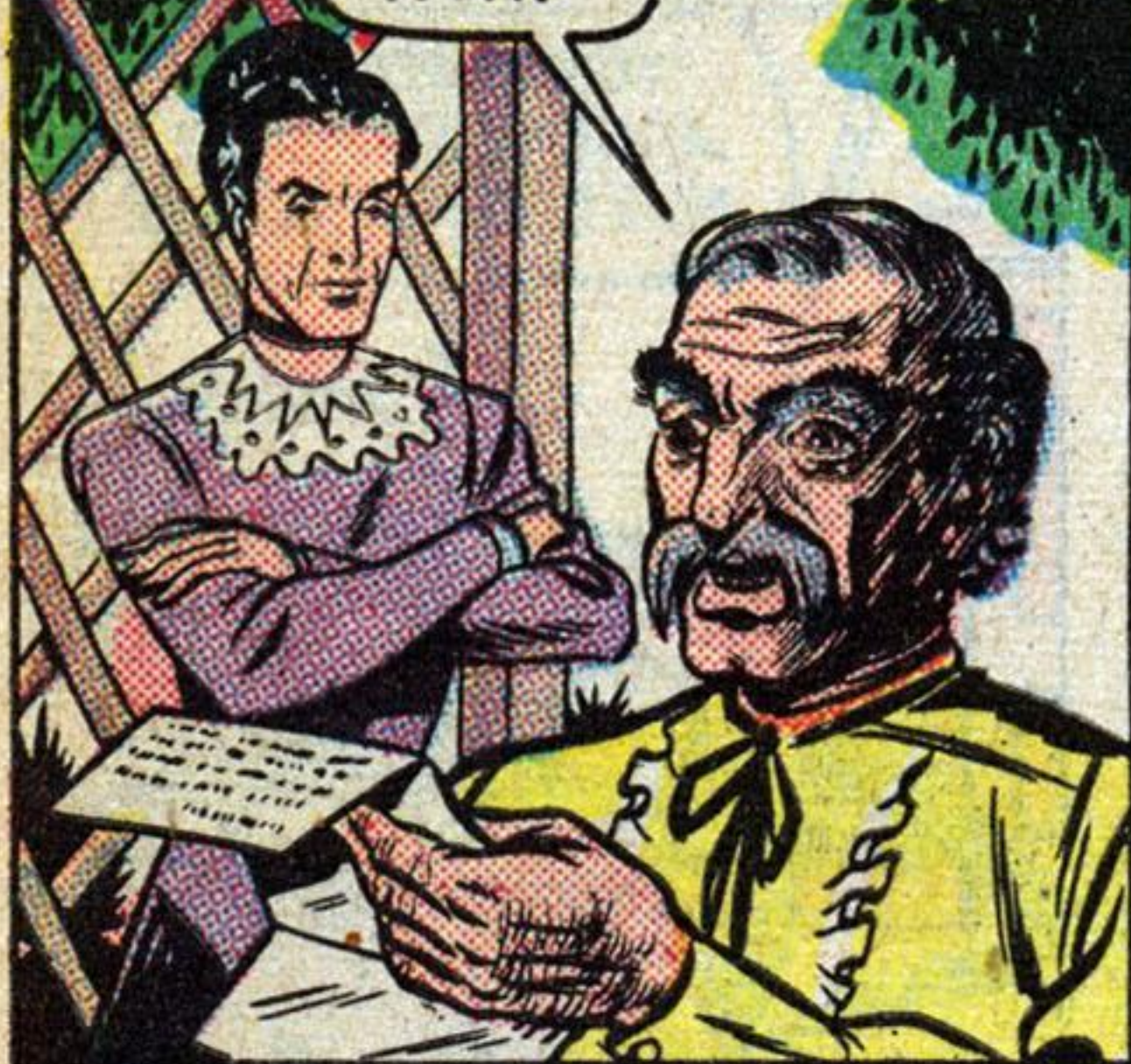
CRIME CAN'T WIN



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

HERE IT IS! A NEW DETECTIVE AGENCY JUST OPENED ON PICAYUNE TIER! TELEPHONE THEM IMMEDIATELY, ADRIENNE, AND TELL THEM I MUST SEE THEIR BEST OPERATOR AT ONCE! I'LL MAKE THAT YOUNG WHIPPERSNAPPER CHANGE HIS MIND! MARRIAGE TO A DANCER...
HUH!



SOON AFTER, DICK HOLMES, ACE INVESTIGATOR OF THE ACME AGENCY, ARRIVED AT THE CHATEAU...

...AND SO, MR. HOLMES, THAT IS THE STORY! THIS DANCER MUST BE BOUGHT OFF AT ANY PRICE! ANY PRICE, YOU HEAR?



YES, SIR! I'LL SEE THE LADY AT ONCE!

THAT EVENING, AT THE SAN SOUCI, GAYEST AND MOST FAMOUS NIGHT CLUB IN NEW ORLEANS, THE ENTHRALLED CROWD WATCHED THE LOVELY DANCER, MAGNOLIA!



BRAVO!

VIVE MAGNOLIA!

WONDERFUL!

AT THE CLOSE OF THE DANCE, MAGNOLIA RUSHED TO THE TABLE OF THE EVER-ADMIRING PIERRE!

YOU WERE *WONDERFUL*, MY BEAUTIFUL MAGNOLIA! BUT I'M JEALOUS OF THE OTHER EYES THAT ARE PERMITTED TO GAZE UPON YOUR LOVELINESS MERELY BY PAYING THE PRICE!

THAT WILL SOON BE OVER, MY DARLING, FOR THE DAY I BECOME YOUR WIFE I WILL LEAVE THE STAGE FOREVER!



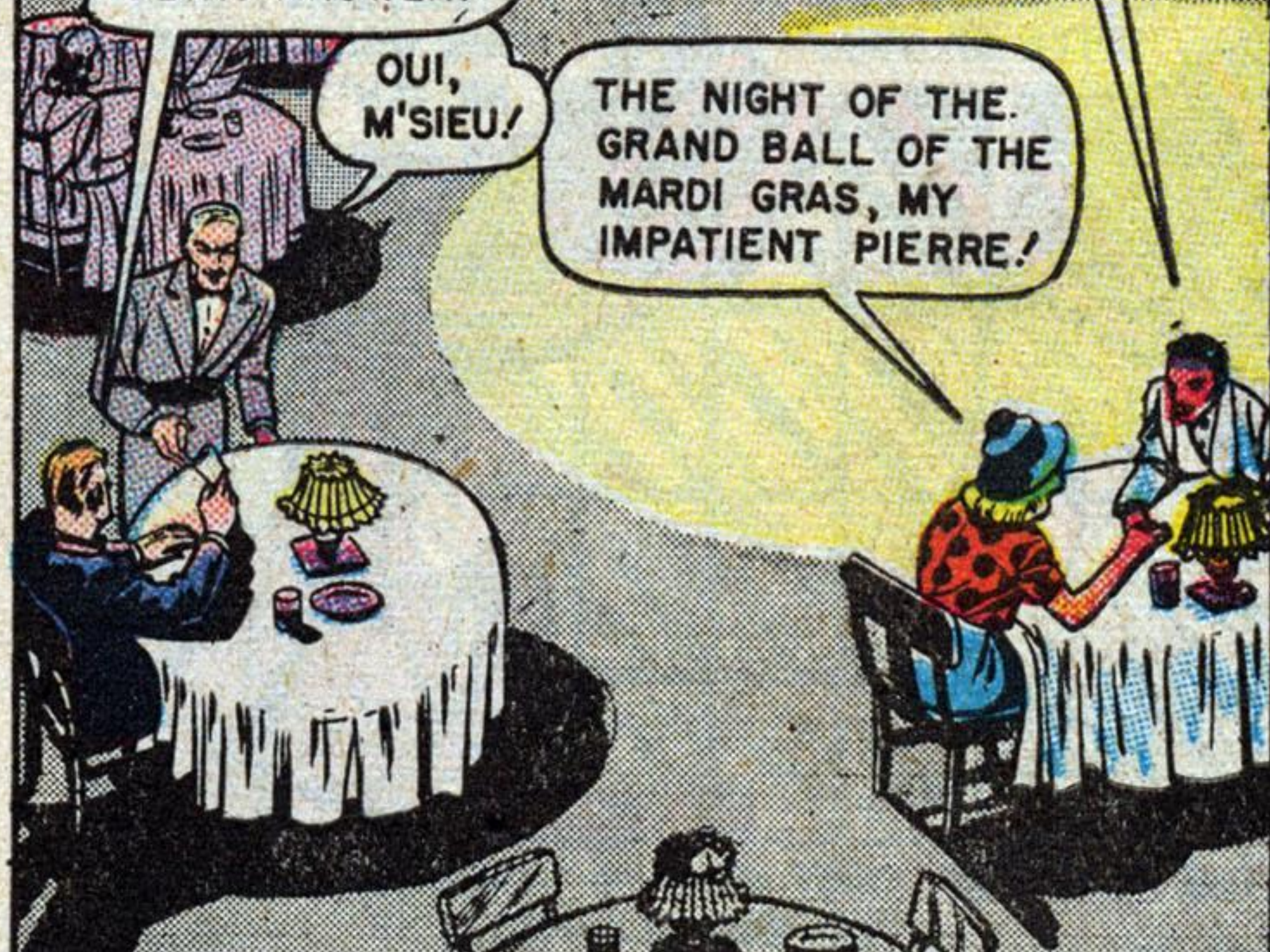
FROM ACROSS THE ROOM, AGENT HOLMES HAD BEEN WATCHING THE COUPLE! THEN HE CALLED THE WAITER...

WAITER, GIVE THIS NOTE TO MISS MAGNOLIA! THERE'LL BE NO ANSWER!

WHEN WILL THAT BE, MAGNOLIA?

OUI, M'SIEU!

THE NIGHT OF THE GRAND BALL OF THE MARDI GRAS, MY IMPATIENT PIERRE!



I MUST LEAVE YOU FOR A FEW MOMENTS, PIERRE! THIS NOTE IS *URGENT*!

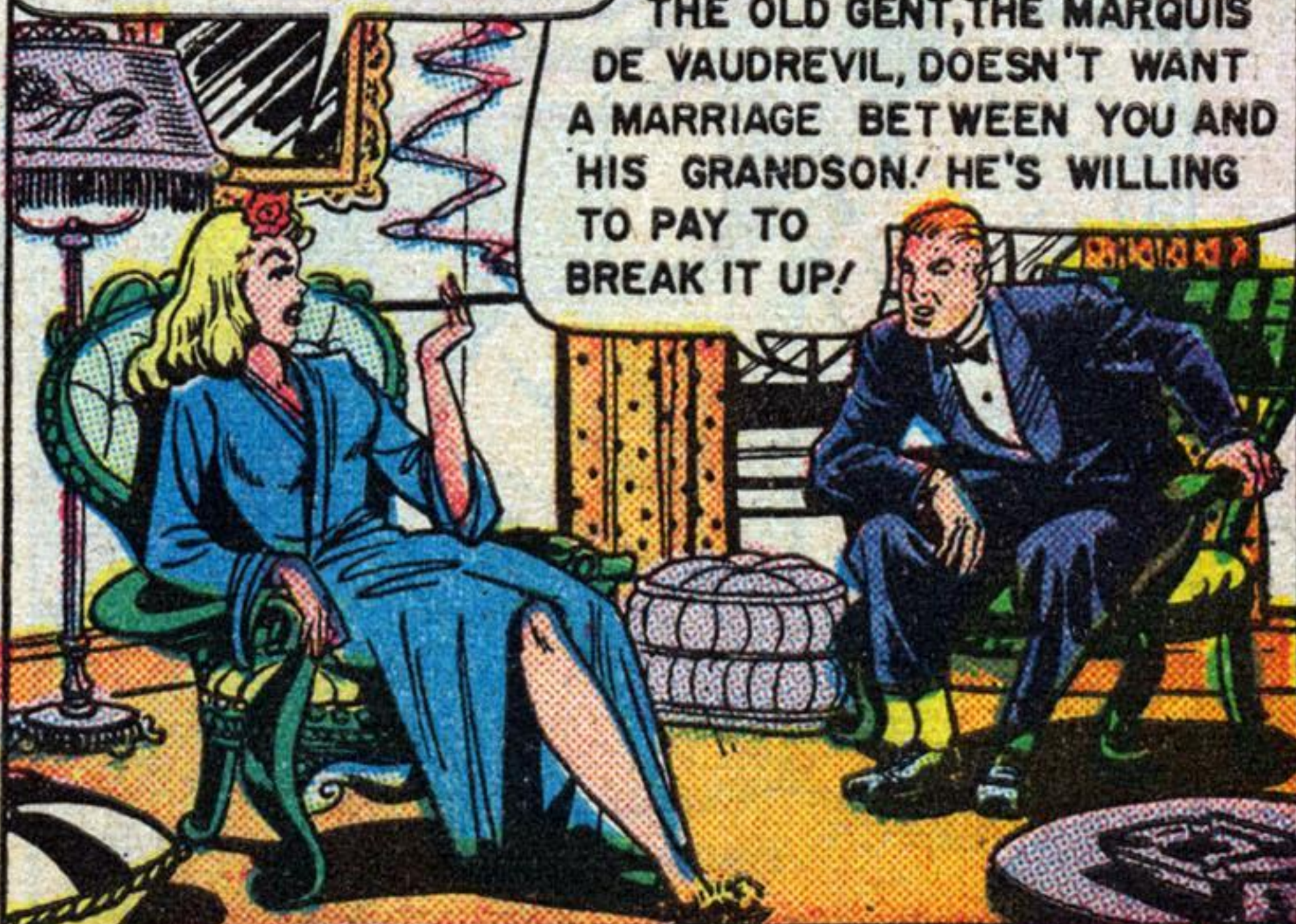
DON'T BE LONG, MY LOVE! EVERY SECOND WE'RE APART IS LIKE A CENTURY!



MINUTES LATER, IN THE LAVISHLY DECORATED WHITE AND GOLD DRESSING ROOM OF MAGNOLIA, A STRANGE CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE...

...AND THIS "URGENT BUSINESS", MR. HOLMES?

I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU STRAIGHT, MISS MAGNOLIA! THE OLD GENT, THE MARQUIS DE VAUDREUIL, DOESN'T WANT A MARRIAGE BETWEEN YOU AND HIS GRANDSON! HE'S WILLING TO PAY TO BREAK IT UP!



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

YOU CAN TELL THE OLD BUZZARD FOR ME THAT I INTEND MARRYING HIS GRANDSON, AND *NOTHING* WILL STOP ME! I'VE GOT MONEY, JEWELS -- EVERYTHING BUT A TITLE... AND I'LL HAVE *THAT*, WHEN HE DIES! I WILL BE THE MARQUESA DE VAUDREVIL! NOW GET OUT, MR. HOLMES!



BUT THE TOAST OF NEW ORLEANS HAD BIGGER PLANS!

AFTER DECIDING ON A PLAN OF ACTION, MAGNOLIA DONNED HER MOST BEAUTIFUL GOWN AND FABULOUS JEWELS AND RETURNED TO THE TABLE...AND PIERRE...

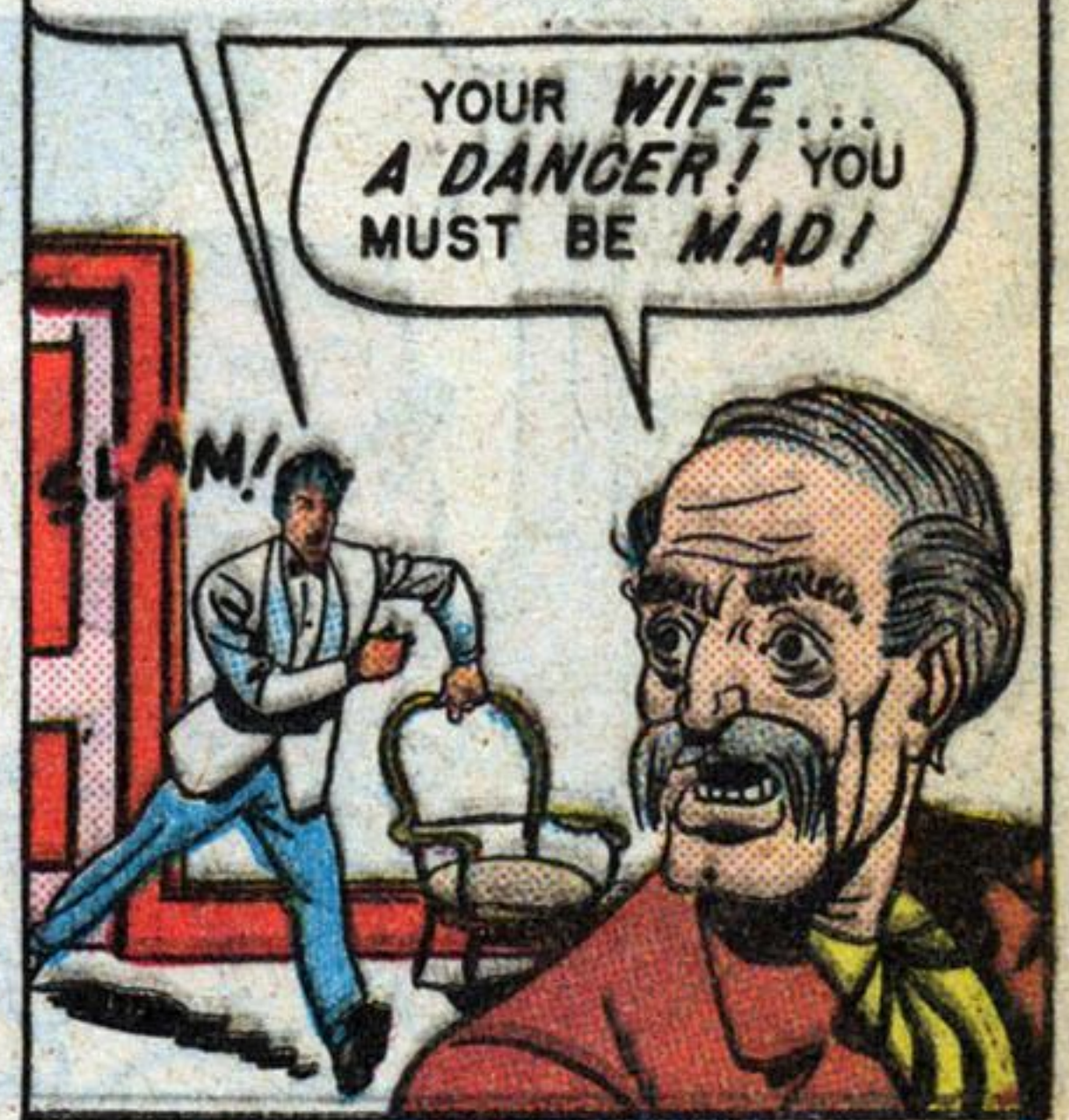
SUCH AN *INSULT*, MON PIERRE, OFFERING ME *MONEY* TO SOOTHE MY BROKEN HEART! THAT WICKED OLD MAN, YOUR GRANDPÈRE!



DON'T CRY, DARLING! I WILL SEE HIM AT ONCE! HE CAN'T STOP ME, I PROMISE YOU! I WON'T LET HIM!

ANGERED BY THE INTERFERENCE OF THE OLD MARQUIS, PIERRE HASTENED BACK TO THE ANCESTRAL CHÂTEAU ON NOBLEMAN'S HILL...

GRANDPÈRE, YOU HAVE INSULTED THE WOMAN I HAVE CHOSEN TO BE MY WIFE!



YOUR WIFE... A DANGER! YOU MUST BE MAD!

AND WHAT ABOUT *ISABELLA*? YOU'VE BEEN BETROTHED SINCE BIRTH! I WILL NEVER CONSENT TO AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN YOU AND THAT OTHER WOMAN!

I'LL MARRY HER IN SPIKE OF YOU!

PIERRE, DON'T EXCITE YOUR GRANDFATHER! HE ISN'T WELL!



THE FLAME OF FURY ROARED STRONGER AS THEIR TEMPER CLASHED!

HE'S A MEAN OLD MAN! I'LL GIVE HIM *SOMETHING* TO THINK ABOUT! MAGNOLIA AND I WILL BE MARRIED ON THE NIGHT OF THE *GRAND BALL*!

IF YOU DO, PIERRE, I'LL *DISINHERIT* YOU! I'LL LEAVE EVERY CENT I POSSESS TO THE "CHARITY OF THE POOR HOME!"



WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT! I'M GETTING OUT... *FOR GOOD*!

OH-OH! ADRIENNE... MY... *HEART*... I'VE GOT... AN ATTACK! MY PILLS!



THERE, LOUIS! SIT QUIETLY! YOU WILL BE BETTER IN A MOMENT!

THANK YOU, ADRIENNE! I FEEL BETTER! TELEPHONE YOUR BROTHER VICTOR! I MUST SEE HIM AT ONCE! I MEANT JUST WHAT I SAID... EVERYTHING I OWN WILL GO TO THE POOR HOME!



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

FROM A PRIVATE EXTENSION TELEPHONE, ADRIENNE CONTACTED HER BROTHER, THE ATTORNEY AND GENERAL OVERSEER OF THE DE VAUDREVIL ESTATES...

VICTOR, YOU MUST COME *AT ONCE*... SOMETHING *TERRIBLE* HAS HAPPENED! YOU'D BETTER MEET ME FIRST... THE DE VAUDREVIL VAULT IN AN HOUR!

I'LL BE THERE, ADRIENNE!



AMIDST THE GRANITE, BRICK, AND MARBLE VAULTS OF THE PRIVATE BURIAL GROUNDS OF THE DE VAUDREVIL FAMILY, AN HOUR LATER...

WHAT IS IT, ADRIENNE?

THE LID IS ABOUT TO BURST, VICTOR! PIERRE AND THE OLD GENT JUST HAD A TERRIBLE ARGUMENT! THE OLD MAN IS CHANGING HIS WILL... *EVERYTHING* IS GOING TO CHARITY!



SO... EVERYTHING IS *OVER*! EVEN THE LITTLE NEST EGG HE'S BEEN PROMISING YOU FOR THE LAST TWENTY YEARS! QUITE A BLOW TO *BOTH* OF US, EH, MY DEAR SISTER?

WE *CAN'T* LET HIM DO IT! HE MUST NOT CHANGE HIS WILL! COME, HE'S WAITING FOR YOU!



AH, VICTOR! THIS IS DETECTIVE HOLMES! I'VE BEEN TELLING HIM OF MY CHANGE OF PLANS! YOU MUST DRAW UP A NEW WILL FOR ME, LEAVING EVERYTHING TO THE "POOR HOME"!

BUT... BUT, LOUIS! THIS WILL TAKE TIME AND TOMORROW IS THE CARNIVAL BALL!



I WANT THIS DONE *IMMEDIATELY*, VICTOR! I WILL BE IN MY PRIVATE BOX AT THE MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM TOMORROW NIGHT! AFTER THE ROYAL TABLEAU, BRING ME THE WILL AND I WILL SIGN IT!

SO THIS DRAMA OF HATE, JEALOUSY, AND GREED RAPIDLY APPROACHED ITS CLIMAX!



GARNIVAL DAY IN NEW ORLEANS... THE MARDI GRAS, MOST FAMOUS MASS FOLK FESTIVAL IN THE WORLD... THE SURVIVAL OF THE LUPERCALIAN, SATURNALIAN, AND BACCHANALIAN FETES OF THE PRE-CHRISTIAN TIMES! THE HOLIDAY MARKING THE COMING OF LENT!



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

MEANWHILE, IN THE DRESSING ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM, MAGNOLIA, ATTENDED BY HER HAND-MAIDENS, WAS TO MAKE HER GRAND ENTRANCE AS QUEEN OF HERMES...

QUEEN MAGNOLIA, YOUR KING IS WAITING FOR YOU!

TELL HIM I AM READY TO JOIN HIM!



AT THE SAME HOUR, ON NOBLEMEN'S HILL, THE MARQUIS DE VAUDREVIL AND HIS GUESTS ALSO PREPARED FOR THE CARNIVAL...

TONIGHT, MR. HOLMES, FROM A VANTAGE POINT IN MY BOX, YOU WILL LEARN THE TRADITION OF OUR CARNIVAL BALL! HOW DOES MY COSTUME LOOK?

FINE, SIR, BUT YOU HAVE A BUTTON MISSING FROM YOUR JACKET!

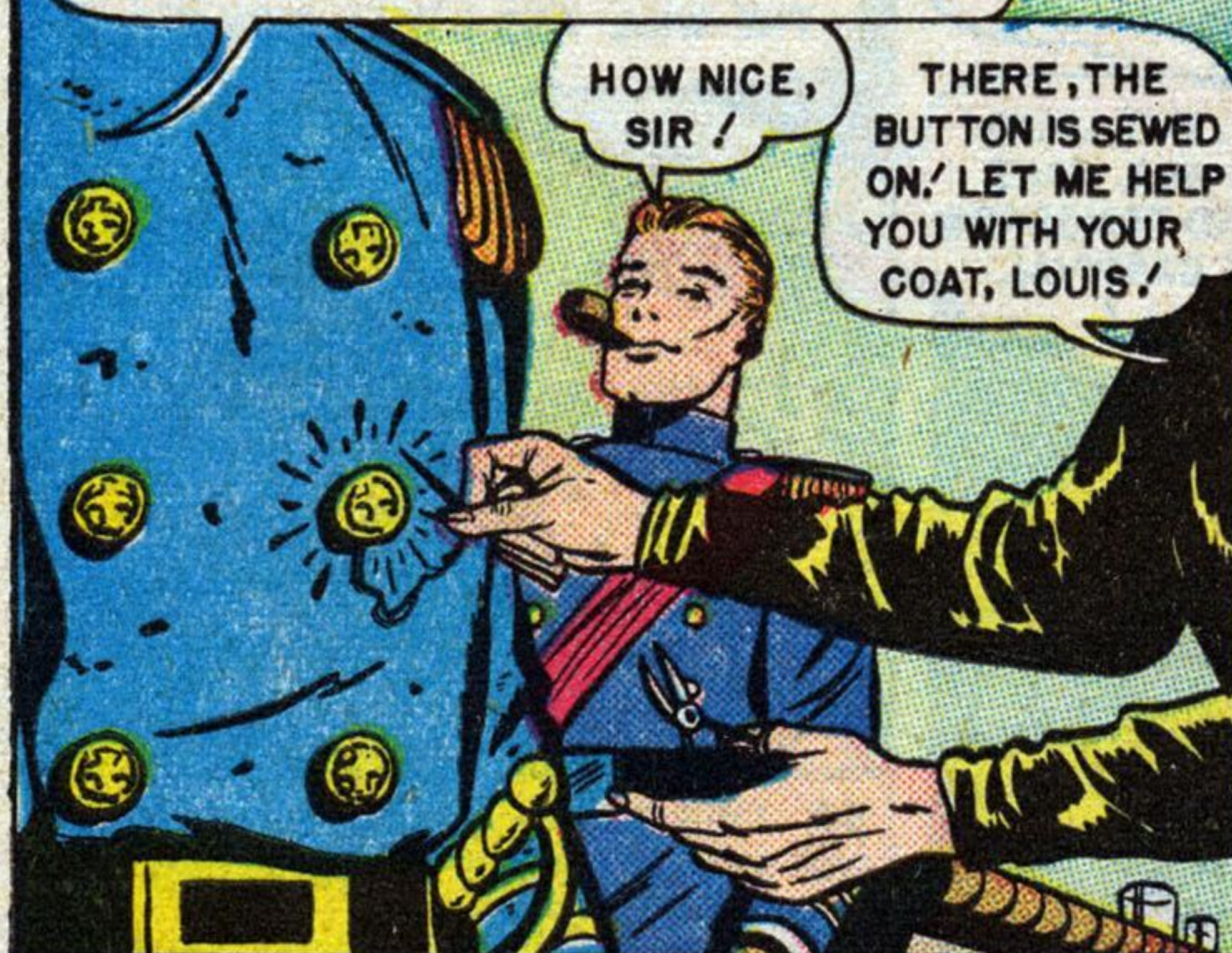
I HAVE IT, LOUIS! I'LL GET A NEEDLE AND THREAD!



...AND BEFORE THE KING AND QUEEN MAKE THEIR PROCESSIONAL AROUND THE BALLROOM, MR. HOLMES, THEY FORM A FITTING TABLEAU IN FRONT OF THE DE VAUDREVIL BOX...TRADITION AND HOMAGE TO THE OLDEST FAMILY IN LOUISIANA YOU KNOW!

HOW NICE, SIR!

THERE, THE BUTTON IS SEWED ON! LET ME HELP YOU WITH YOUR COAT, LOUIS!



THE DE VAUDREVIL BOX IN THE MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM, SHORTLY BEFORE THE GRAND ENTRANCE OF THE KING AND QUEEN OF HERMES AND THEIR ATTENDANTS...

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO MADAME BIENTOT AND VICTOR, SIR?

THEY'RE PART OF THE ROYAL ENTOURAGE, HOLMES! THEY'LL BE ALONG IN A MOMENT! WAIT, THERE GOES THE ORCHESTRA...THE KING AND QUEEN ARE ABOUT TO MAKE THEIR ENTRANCE!



AS THE STRAINS OF THE ROYAL ORCHESTRA FILLED THE BALLROOM, THE KING AND QUEEN, FOLLOWED BY THEIR ATTENDANTS, PROCEEDED SLOWLY AROUND THE OUTER CIRCLE OF THE AUDITORIUM...

SEE, HOLMES, THERE ARE PIERRE AND THE...THE DANCER! AND LOOK! THERE ARE ADRIENNE AND VICTOR WITH THEM!



THE KING AND QUEEN REACHED THE BOX OF THE MARQUIS DE VAUDREVIL, PRIOR TO MAKING THE TRADITIONAL TABLEAU...

THE ENTIRE BALLROOM WILL BE BLACKED OUT FOR ONE MINUTE, MR. HOLMES, TO GIVE THE ROYAL PARTY TIME TO FORM THE TABLEAU! THERE GO THE LIGHTS!



SUDDENLY, THROUGH THE INKY DARKNESS OF THE SILENT BALLROOM CAME THE PENETRATING BLAST OF A GUN...



FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

AS THE TABLEAU WAS FORMED, ONCE AGAIN THE BALLROOM WAS ILLUMINATED WITH TEN THOUSAND TAPERS, BUT ONLY ONE WOULD HAVE BEEN NEEDED TO REVEAL THE MARQUIS DE VAUDREVIL... **DEAD!**

SOME MINUTES LATER, IN A DRESSING ROOM BEHIND THE BOX...

THE MARQUIS WAS KILLED INSTANTLY BY A DIRECT SHOT TO THE HEART! IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE! THE ENTIRE BALLROOM WAS IN DARKNESS! I THINK THIS IS A MATTER FOR THE POLICE, MR. HOLMES!

I'VE ALL READY BEGUN MY OWN PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION, DOCTOR!

SIR! SIR!
GOOD HEAVENS!
THE MARQUIS
IS DEAD!

LATER, IN AN ANTEROOM OF THE AUDITORIUM...

AS YOU KNOW, THE MARQUIS IS DEAD... MURDERED! I'VE GATHERED YOU HERE TO ASK SOME QUESTIONS!

MY...POOR GRANDPÈRE! WHO...
WHO COULD HAVE DONE IT?

WHO? ISN'T THAT A
RATHER *SILLY* QUESTION
IN THE FACE OF THE FACTS,
PIERRE?

WHY YOU...! HOW DARE
YOU ADDRESS *ME* LIKE
THAT?

STOP, PIERRE! LET *ME* HANDLE THIS! EACH ONE OF YOU IN THIS ROOM HAD A MOTIVE TO KILL THE MARQUIS... **BEFORE HE CHANGED HIS WILL!**

BUT, THAT'S UTTERLY
RIDICULOUS, MR.
HOLMES!

YOU, MRS. BIENTOT, BECAUSE *YOU* FEARED THE LITTLE NEST EGG PROMISED YOU WOULD GO TO CHARITY! AND *YOU*, VICTOR, BECAUSE A NEW WILL WOULD NECESSITATE AN INVESTIGATION OF THE FUNDS OF THE MARQUIS WHICH YOU MANIPULATED WITH UNFORTUNATE RESULTS...

...AND *YOU*, MAGNOLIA, BECAUSE YOU WANTED A TITLE PLUS THE DE VAUDREVIL MILLIONS! PIERRE, *YOU* BECAUSE YOU FEARED MAGNOLIA MIGHT CHANGE HER MIND IF YOU WERE DISINHERITED! YOU SEE, THE OLD MARQUIS ACQUAINTED ME WITH ALL THE FACTS EARLIER THIS EVENING! **NOW I HAVE A PLAN...**

FROM AN INNER POCKET, HOLMES WITHDREW A SMALL BOTTLE...

SINCE YOU *ALL* CLAIM INNOCENCE OF THIS MURDER, I KNOW YOU'LL NOT OBJECT TO MY SPREADING THIS LIQUID WAX ON YOUR HANDS!

WHY...WHY...
OH, ALL RIGHT!

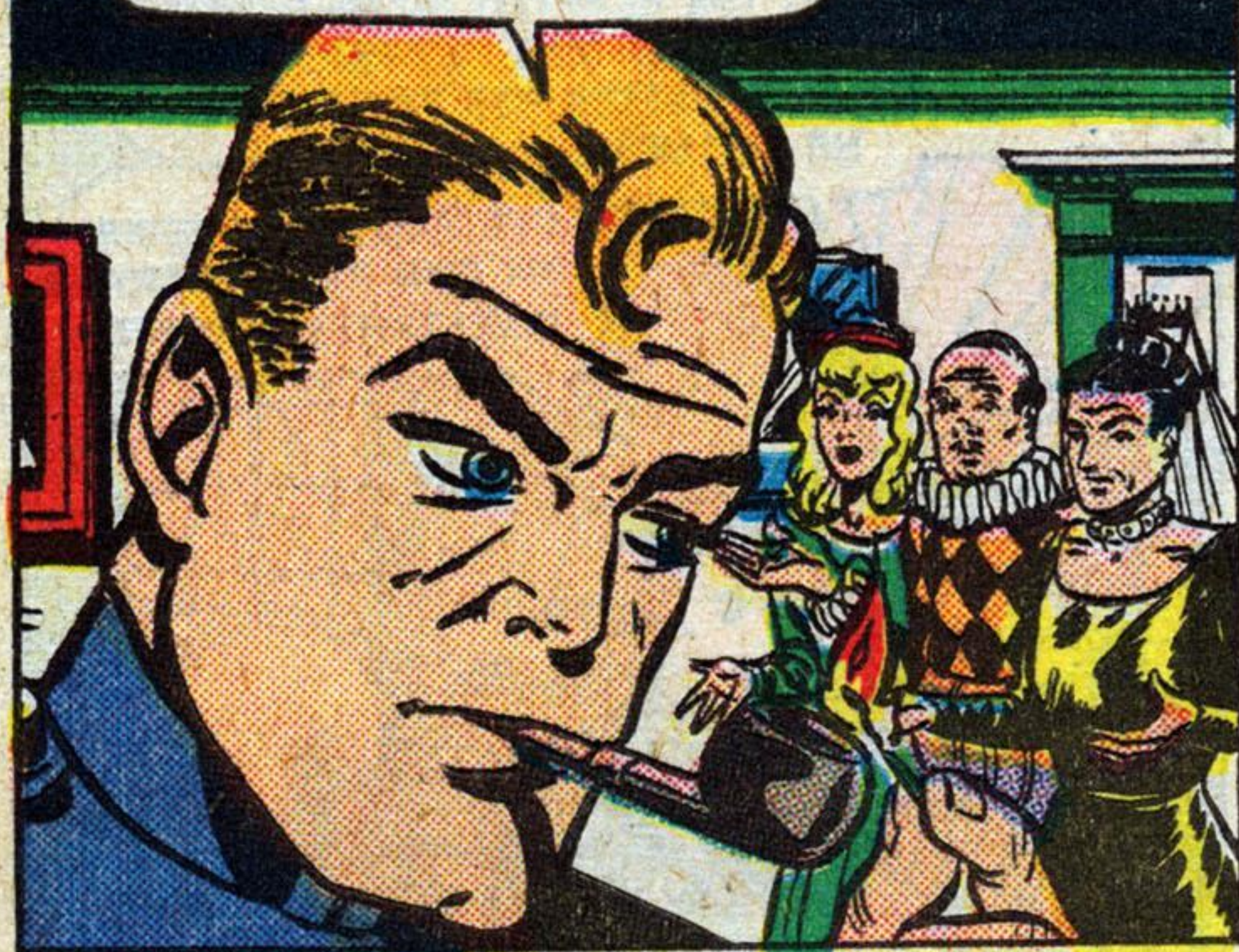
THIS IS
TOO
HUMILIATING!

LET HIM,
ADRIENNE!
HE'S JUST
BEING
OFFICIOUS!

FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES

CRIME CAN'T WIN

WHEN THE WAX HARDENS, I'M GOING TO REMOVE IT FROM EACH HAND! NOW I SHOULD WARN YOU, THAT THE WAX FROM THE HAND THAT FIRED THE GUN WILL BE COVERED WITH SMALL TELLTALE PARTICLES OF GUN POWDER!



SUDDENLY, AT THAT MOMENT...



NOW WILL YOU LET ME REMOVE THE WAX, VICTOR? OR SHALL WE DO IT AT HEADQUARTERS?

NO! I'LL TALK! I... I HAD TO KILL HIM! I... I HAD LOST MOST OF HIS MONEY... AND... AND I COULDN'T STAND THE DISGRACE...



OKAY, HOLMES! WE'LL TAKE HIM IN! BUT HOW DID YOU GET HIM TO TALK?

A RUSE, OFFICER! IT HAD TO BE ONE OF THE FOUR PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM! FRANKLY, I DIDN'T KNOW WHICH! I THOUGHT I'D TRY A PLAN! I HAD A BOTTLE OF LIQUID WAX THAT I WAS TO USE FOR MY MAKE-UP! SO I THOUGHT I'D TRY TO TRAP THE KILLER WITH IT! IT WORKED!



ONE THING MORE, HOLMES! HOW DID HE DO IT IN THE DARK?

HERE'S THE BUTTON THAT MRS. BIENTÔT SEWED ON THE MARQUIS' JACKET! I REMOVED IT FROM THE DEAD MAN'S COAT, A FEW MINUTES AGO! UNDER THE MICROSCOPE IN THE POLICE LAB, YOU WILL FIND THAT IT HAS BEEN COATED WITH... PHOSPHORUS... A PERFECT TARGET IN THE DARKENED BALLROOM! EITHER ADRIENNE AIDED HER BROTHER OR HE SUPPLIED THE TREATED BUTTON HIMSELF! WE'LL HAVE TO DETERMINE THAT LATER!

THANKS, HOLMES! WE'LL SEE YOU AT HEADQUARTERS!



TIME HEALS ALL WOUNDS, AND WEEKS LATER, PIERRE RETURNED TO THE WHITE AND GOLD DRESSING ROOM, UNPREPARED FOR THE SHOCK TO COME!

MAGNOLIA, DARLING, MY PERIOD OF MOURNING IS OVER! WE CAN BE MARRIED AT ANY TIME YOU SAY! I'M AFRAID MOST OF THE MONEY IS GONE, BUT WE CAN BE HAPPY!

MAGNOLIA, WITHOUT LOTS OF MONEY? NO, PIERRE! NEVER! ANYHOW, THE COUNT DE BRIGNEY HAS BEEN SO-O-O ATTENTIVE...



AND SO, PIERRE DE VAUDREVIL SPENT THE REST OF HIS LIFE A BACHELOR-- SEARCHING IN VAIN FOR ISABELLA, THE ONE GIRL WHO HAD LOVED HIM FOR HIMSELF, THE ONE GIRL HE COULD NEVER FIND! SO THE AMAZING AFFAIR OF THE MARDI GRAS MURDER REACHED ITS TRAGIC END!



THE END

FROM OFFICIAL POLICE FILES



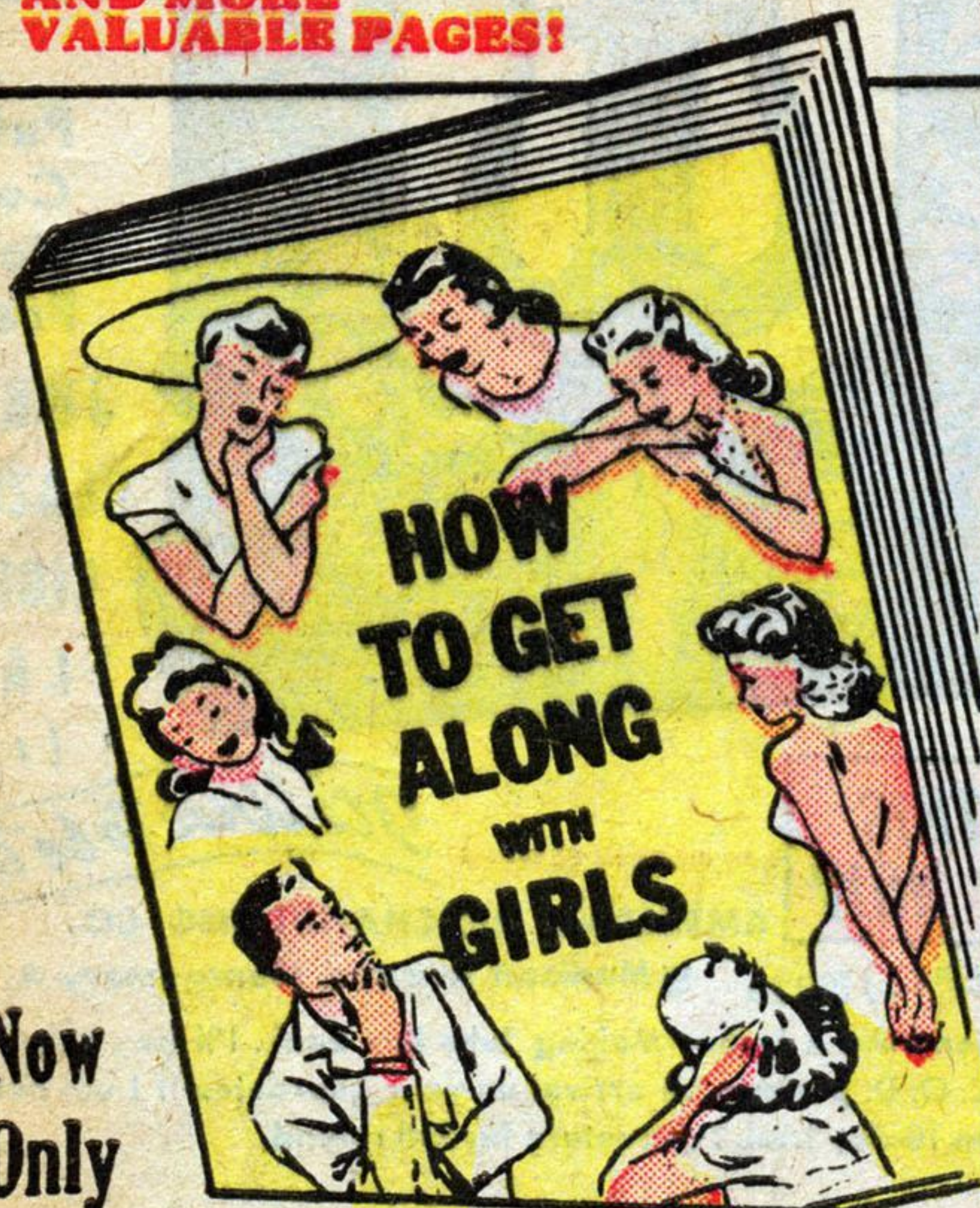
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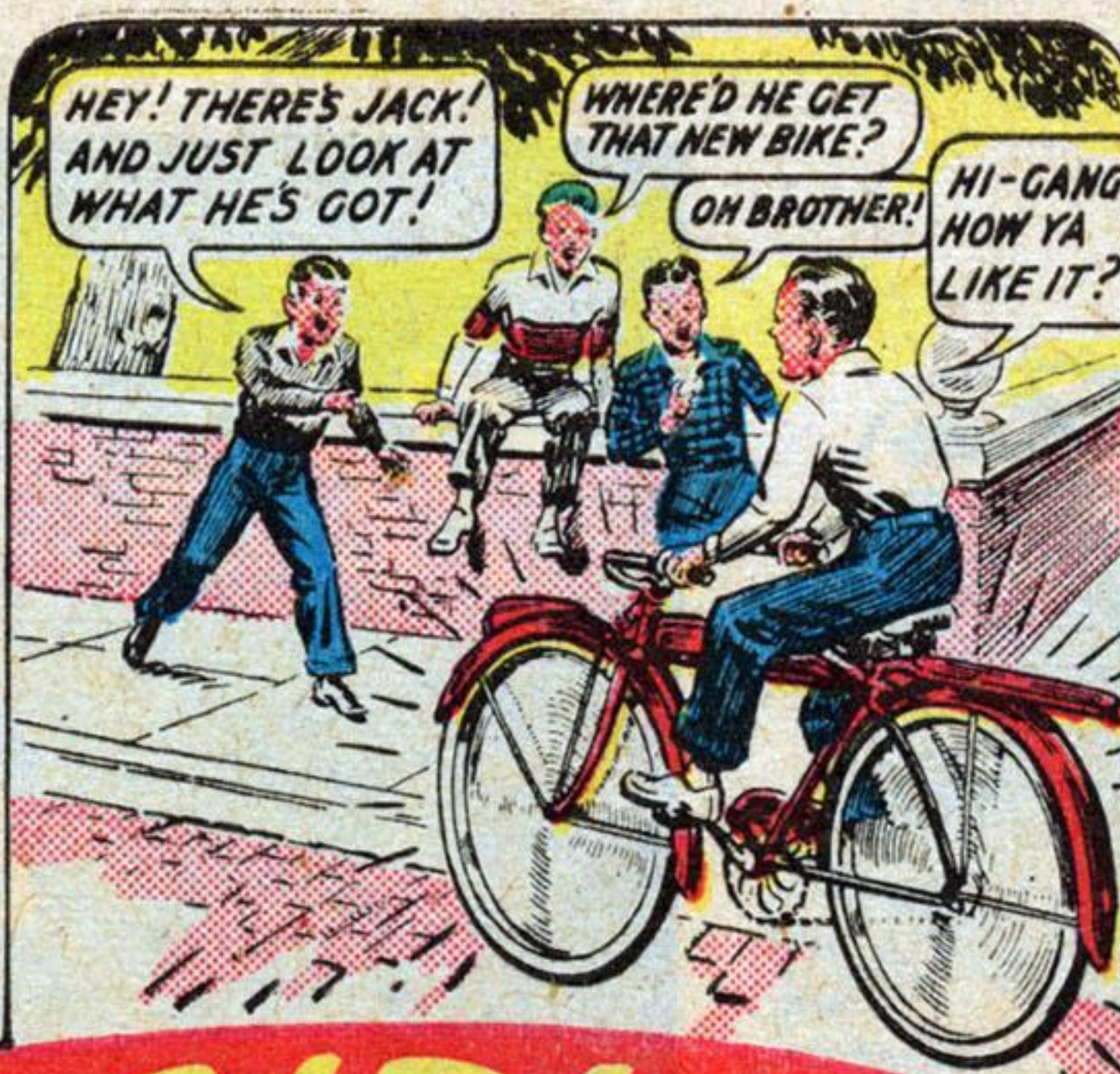
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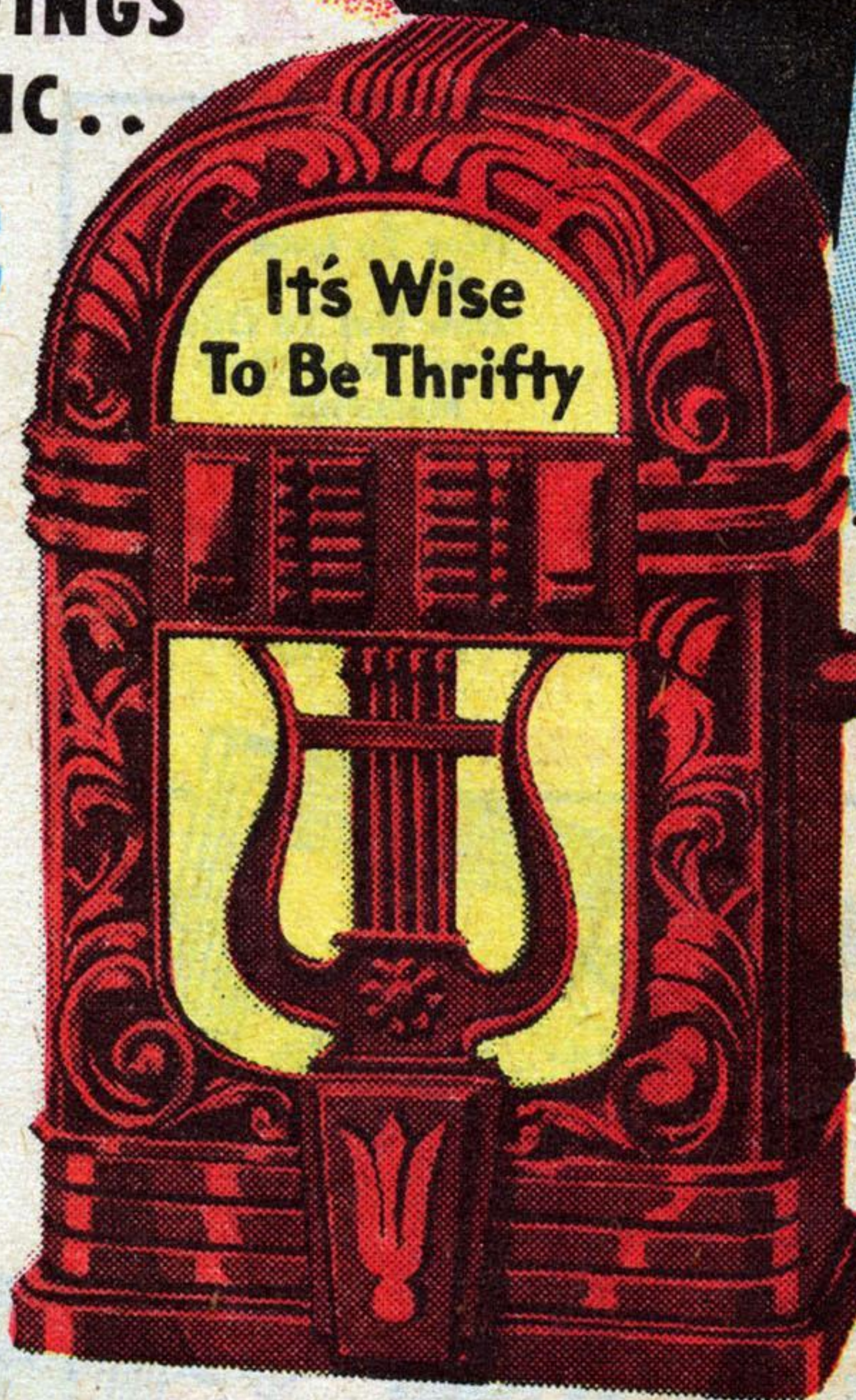
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